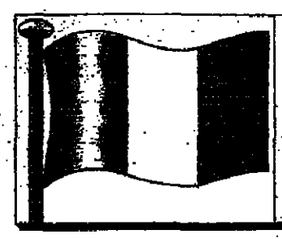
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Inside Maurice Saatchi

What drives the consummate ad-man? Valerie Grove sifts truth from myth, **page 15**



Passport to France

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Special 16-page section



Hope rises from the Ashes

Fighting spirit restores faith in English cricket.
John Woodcock, **page 37**

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THE TIMES

No. 65,157 FRIDAY JANUARY 6 1995

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

Duchess 'a sweet girl, but vulgar'

Royal divorce will go ahead, says courtier

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE Prince and Princess of Wales will divorce and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has resigned herself to the prospect, one of the Royal Family's closest confidants says in a frank interview today.

Lord Charteris of Amisfield, former Private Secretary to the Queen, is also blunt in his assessment of the Duchess of York: "She is vulgar, vulgar, vulgar, and that is that."

In the interview, in *The Spectator* magazine, he insists that the Prince of Wales will become King when "the dear, sweet Queen dies". Anyone who cast doubt on that was talking "revolution, referendum and change of constitution". Also, he says that even though she is married, Camilla Parker-Bowles is "the love of the Prince's life".

Lord Charteris, 81, left the Royal Household in 1977 but remains a member of the Queen's inner circle as a Permanent Lord in Waiting and lunches with the Queen Mother. Any indiscretions in the interview are likely to be intentional. Another royal confidant said that they probably had the unofficial Windsor imprimatur.

Last night, however, Lord Charteris said that he "bitterly regretted" the interview and had not intended his comments to be made public. "The magazine wanted to do a profile, and I made clear I could not have my views published on the Royal Family.

"The reporter, Noreen Taylor, is a nice and charming woman and I fear I did not sort the arrangement out properly. I had thought everything I said was off the record.



Charteris: "I thought it was off the record"

"I have no idea whether the Queen will be amused or not. A divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales is not the end of the world. I wish I hadn't said what I said about the Duchess of York. I have to say the Duchess of York is a nice, sweet girl, but she is vulgar. That is all there is to it."

Lord Charteris says the Queen Mother accepted that the divorce of the Prince and Princess of Wales could take place in her lifetime. Most commentators had thought that any announcement would be postponed until after her death. "You don't reach 94 without surviving a number of shocks, and Her Majesty is built of stern stuff. Probably because she is a bit of an ostrich; she learned how to protect herself. What she doesn't want to see, she doesn't look at," he says.

Few courtiers have such intimate knowledge of the Royal Family. Martin Charteris's first post was Private Secretary to the then Princess Elizabeth in 1950. Some observers believe that if he had been Private Secretary during the Prince's courtship of Lady Diana Spencer there would have been no marriage. "The pity is that the Prince of Wales had to a marry a virgin," he says in the interview. "Divorce will clear the air."

Lord Charteris staunchly defends the Prince's right to be King. "There is nothing in the Constitution to say that the monarch must be happily married. When the dear, sweet Queen dies, although I wish she could go on for ever, a council of succession will appoint Charles as head of state. I know Charles, know the man, and believe he will be a good king, a king for his time."

It is not the first time the Duchess of York has been criticised by Lord Charteris, who was rewarded with a life peerage the year after he retired and became Provost of Eton College. Last year he said she was unsuited to her royal role, and in the interview he says: "There was no royal criticism for saying what I did. I was only saying what everyone else thought. Quite simply, the Duchess of York is a vulgarian."

Last night the Duchess shrugged off the remarks. In Klosters she said: "He has said this sort of thing before. Everybody is entitled to their own opinion."

Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince of Wales's Private Secretary, did not wish to comment directly on what Lord Charteris had said. "He is someone I respect greatly," he told reporters at Klosters, where the Prince is also skiing.

A spokesman for the Prince emphasised that there were no plans for divorce at present. "There is speculation the only thing stopping them is the Queen Mother: that is not true. The only thing stopping them is the fact that they have not decided that is what they want to do."

The candid interview was criticised by another royal confidant, Lord St John of Fawsley, who feared that it would lead to a new wave of hostile publicity for the Royal Family. He said: "The problems are coming to their own solution of their own accord. It should be a new year's resolution to let members of the Royal Family get on with their own lives."

Lord Charteris, however, is confident in the interview that the monarchy will survive the latest bout of turbulence. "Lampooning, ridiculing, it has all been done before. They remember the abdication and how afterwards the monarchy was revived by George and Elizabeth and adored as a beloved family. If the Prince and Princess of Wales had had a successful marriage, there would not be a problem."

Diary, page 16

MARK WILSON/AP



Newt Gingrich addresses a celebration gala after the 14-hour session of Congress

Whirlwind of Republican votes shakes Capitol Hill

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Democrats' "Imperial Congress" that had so enraged the American people was teetering yesterday after a blizzard of votes forced by the new Republican majority gnawed at its very foundations.

In an opening session that lasted 14 hours and ended only at 2am, the Republican revolutionaries forced through a series of reforms designed to make Congress more open and accountable and less wasteful of taxpayers' money.

They skipped a host of celebratory parties in a determination to prove that they really meant business. Democrats, terrified of being seen as obstructionist, largely supported measures that would scarcely have seen the light of day under the old regime.

Leading the charge was Newt Gingrich, the new Speaker, who called it "one of the most productive sessions for any single day in House history", and the jokes on Capitol Hill reflected his utter dominance of the proceedings. Mr Gingrich was giving America a "Newt Deal" that would reverse President Roosevelt's "New Deal".

Later yesterday Mr Gingrich, the Senate Republican leader Robert Dole and other new leaders of Congress went to the White House to meet President Clinton, and the dramatic shift in the balance of power was clear.

The President's State of the Union address, later this month, normally marks the start of the legislative year in Washington. But Mr Clinton instead found himself responding to a Republican agenda already under way. Far from challenging the Republican programme, the President identified areas of potential co-operation, and promised to "work together to make things happen" provided neither the middle class nor the economic recovery were jeopardised. Mr Gingrich called it a "very, very positive meeting".

The President even laughed off Mr Gingrich's mother's disclosure to a CBS interviewer, Connie Chung, that the Speaker considered Hillary Clinton a bitch. Putting his hand on Mr Gingrich's arm as the television cameras rolled, the President told him: "God knows what she [Ms Chung] could've gotten my mother to say."

Votes in the House came thick and fast and will change substantially the way it operates. By 279 votes to 152, Congress mandated a three-fifths "supermajority" to approve any new income tax increase. By 430-1 they ordered a comprehensive independent audit of Congress to identify waste, fraud and abuse. They agreed unanimously that Congress should no longer exempt itself from laws it has imposed on the rest of America.

By 355-74 the House limited the Speaker's term of office to eight years and committee chairman to six, preventing them building personal fiefdoms as in the past. By 416-12 it agreed to eliminate 28 committees and sub-committees and more than 600 committee staff. It unanimously ordered all committee meetings opened to television except in "extraordinary circumstances".

Congressmen will no longer be able to alter the written record of their speeches, and taxpayer-funding of 26 special interest groups, including the black and Hispanic caucuses, is to end.

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Gingrich promises 12
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Gloucesters forced to leave Barnwell

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke's mother, Princess Alice, are being forced to leave their family home, Barnwell Manor, near Oundle, Northamptonshire, for financial reasons.

Since 1938 Barnwell has been home for Princess Alice, 93, the Queen's aunt. But within the next three months, it was disclosed yesterday, she will move in with the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, at their flat in Kensington Palace, London, provided by the Queen in return for their carrying out official duties. It has seven reception rooms and four bedrooms.

A statement from Kensington Palace yesterday announced that, although it was "no longer possible for their Royal Highnesses to maintain two homes", the Duke would continue to farm the Barnwell estate. "He and his family, therefore, hope to retain the close links that they have enjoyed for over 50 years with the local community."

Barnwell, an Elizabethan manor house built in 1586, was bought with 2,500 acres of land in 1938 by Princess Alice's husband, Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester. The estate had earlier belonged to her father, then Earl of Dalkeith, who sold it in 1913.

The Duke and Duchess have not lived there permanently for some years, although they have been regular weekend visitors.

Major Nicholas Barne, the Duke's private secretary, said yesterday that the house would be closed but there were at present no plans to sell it.

"This is not an overnight decision. It is basically for financial reasons," Major Barne said.

"There has been a general erosion of finances over the

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THE TIMES

30p ON SATURDAY



TRAVEL SPECIAL

Matthew Parris goes walkabout in the Magazine's 20-page Travel '95

Plus in Weekend: cruising without tears, hottest holidays in Spain, skiing in Vail

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EU delays trade tie with Russia

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission is delaying a trade agreement with Russia in protest at its aggression in Chechenia.

Hans van den Broek, the EU's Foreign Relations Commissioner, said at his confirmation hearings in front of the European Parliament's foreign affairs committee yesterday that the Commission had decided not to present an interim trade agreement for signature amid concern over the "carnage" in Grozny.

The agreement, signed by President Yeltsin at the Corfu European summit meeting in June, would have eliminated trade quotas and encouraged EU investment in Russia, paving the way to a more comprehensive treaty similar to those signed with six central and east European countries, and creating a quasi pan-European customs union.

The decision follows pressure from MEPs to stop all aid to Russia. Mr Van den Broek called it "a signal that cannot be misunderstood".

Conscience of Russia, page 11

Endowment bonuses cut

Millions of homeowners could face higher premium payments to make sure insurance policies pay off mortgages at the end of the term as insurance companies continue to announce cuts in annual bonuses. Commercial Union yesterday became the latest company to announce an across-the-board cut, following General Accident. Some 60 per cent of Britain's mortgaged households have endowment policies ..... Page 21

American charged in hitmen killing

The trial opened yesterday of Michael Austin, 39, an American charged with hiring two hooded gunmen to murder an accountant in Lancashire. Carlisle Crown Court heard that David Wison was killed after a fraudulent business deal went wrong ..... Page 3

Assembly doubt

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said yesterday that badly conducted daily religious assemblies in schools were putting children off religion, and questioned the need for them to continue ..... Page 5

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Parkhurst worker finds replica pass key near jail

BY RICHARD FORD AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

A REPLICA pass key believed to have been used by three highly dangerous prisoners in their escape from Parkhurst jail was discovered yesterday 50 yards from the perimeter wall.

The key was found on waste ground near a public telephone box by a prison clerical worker. It would have provided access to parts of the prison, including the gym where the men were exercising before their escape.

It was found as a row erupted over police suggestions that staff might have colluded in helping the men flee the top-security prison. Police said last night that the men had help from other inmates and they could not rule out collusion with prison staff.

The discovery was the first success of *Operation Wightwash*, the joint police and prison service search for the two murderers and an arsonist who escaped on Tuesday night.

Last night a prison officers' spokesman claimed that management at the jail had been warned of a breakout four days earlier. Matthew Williams, the arsonist, was spotted sizing up walls by an officer, according to Terry McLaren, of the Prison Officers' Association. Mr McLaren said a report was sent to management.

It was also reported by prison sources last night that the metal inner security fence, which was cut by the men, was either not part of an alarm system, or had been turned down because it was activated by seabirds.

A Prison Service spokesman refused to comment, saying: "These are matters for the inquiry."

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Prison troubles damage Howard's prospects



Howard: run of reverses more than just bad luck

By Peter Riddell

MICHAEL HOWARD is not about to resign as Home Secretary. Nor is there any serious pressure on him to do so, but the latest troubles in the prisons will damage his reputation and affect his long-term prospects.

Mr Howard is having to cope with events outside his control, as so many of his predecessors have. As Roy Jenkins, twice Home Secretary, writes in his memoirs, all Home Secretaries have a dread of the phone call while they are away from the office about some appalling development, from a prison breakout to a terrorist bomb. Occasionally, as now, such events occur in rapid succession and a Home Secretary is under constant fire.

No one expects a Home Secretary to resign every time prisoners riot or escape. Jack Straw, the astute Shadow Home Secretary, has criticised Mr Howard but has been careful not to call for his resignation, perhaps anticipating the pressures he might face if he held the office.

What matters is whether a Home Secretary's policy decisions contributed to the errors — and Mr Howard still has to answer questions about changes in the prison service — as well as how he handles such difficulties. While one or two such flare-ups are an inescapable part of being Home Secretary, Mr Howard's run of reverses has been more than just on bad luck. He faced problems in the Lords last year, has been strongly criticised by many in the police, and has had a

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

number of important judgments against him in the courts.

Many Tory MPs support his objectives on punishment and reorganising the police and prison services, but question his tactics. He has been criticised from within Whitehall for being too concerned with the short-term political impact. He is accused of trying too hard in a department where detachment is often a wiser course and results can take years to appear.

Mr Howard is in an important position within the Cabinet. He has been the most loyal of the Eurosceptic ministers, even publicly criticising the best man at his wedding, Norman Lamont. He is part of the Cabinet's inner group and attended the Sunday evening supper which decided to make the vote on the European Budget Bill an issue of confidence. But he also has firm Euro-sceptic credentials: insisting as Employment Secretary upon the British opt-out from the Maastricht treaty during the 1991 negotiations. He has recently argued that Britain should put forward proposals for the intergovernmental conference in 1996 which would limit the power of European institutions, including the European court, and emphasise the role of member states.

Mr Howard's friends have been pushing his claims to become Foreign Secretary if Douglas Hurd steps down in the summer, not least as a means of rallying the Eurosceptics behind the Government. That was always a long shot, with Malcolm Rifkind, Ian Lang and Sir Patrick Mayhew the frontrunners for the post. But Mr Howard's recent buffeting makes that less likely.

Of his six Tory predecessors as Home Secretary only two were promoted: Mr Hurd to the Foreign Office and Kenneth Clarke to the Treasury. The others moved sideways or out. Unless he shows a surer touch or is more lucky with external events, Mr Howard could suffer the fate of Sir Leon Brittan in 1985, who after two uneasy years trying to take a tough public line on law and order was moved sideways to Trade and Industry.

Warders deny playing any role in helping the three runaways organise their escape

Parkhurst staff in angry attack on collusion theory

By Richard Ford and Dominic Kennedy

PRISONERS in Parkhurst top security jail helped three men serving life sentences to break out of the prison, according to the man leading the hunt to recapture them.

John Wright, the assistant chief constable of Hampshire, also said that he could not rule out the possibility that the prisoners had assistance from prison officers. His suggestions provoked a furious response from the local prison officers' association and heightened tension between police and prison staff.

Between eight and ten members of the association have been interviewed by police about the escape but Nigel Mason, secretary of the Parkhurst branch of the Prison Officers Association, said Mr Wright's comments about prison collusion were disgusting and distasteful. He said: "It creates a bad atmosphere between us and the police. It is deplorable that he is voicing his opinions without facts."

At a press conference in the prison later, Mr Wright clarified his remarks about possible collusion. It was clear that prisoners were helped by fellow inmates and he had to examine the possibility that prison employees had been involved in helping the escapers, he said. He added: "I am not making any assertions whatsoever in relation to the integrity of prison staff at Parkhurst prison."

As he spoke bad weather was hampering the search by two hundred officers for Williams, Keith Rose and Andrew Rodger. Mr Wright believes the men are still on the Isle of Wight and police extended their search beyond Parkhurst Forest.

Mr Wright said: "It is not beyond the realms of possibility that they are well housed in accommodation on the Isle of Wight." Hundreds of holiday homes, caravans and boats moored around the island are being checked in case the prisoners are hiding in them until the search is scaled down.

Police have urged islanders to carry out what amounts to a head count of everybody on the island. They were told to check that they know the whereabouts of neighbours and members of their family. Officers fear the prisoners may take somebody hostage or terrorise them into allowing them to hide on their property.

A tough disciplinarian has now been drafted in by the prison service to assist in the drive to improve security at jails throughout England and Wales. Bill Abbott, the governor of Pentonville jail, begins his new job as assistant director of security next week with the task of implementing many of the recommendations of the official enquiry into the IRA at Whitemoor prison.

At Westminster, Jack Straw, shadow home secretary, wrote to Michael Howard calling for a independent enquiry into the Parkhurst escape along the lines of Sir John Woodcock's investigation in the breakout at Whitemoor jail. But Michael Forsyth, the prisons ministers and Conservative MPs rallied defend Mr Howard and Derek Lewis, the director general of the prison service. Mr Forsyth lead the fight back against calls for their resignation, claiming they were the target of a "witch hunt".

He said: "We cannot deal with everything that goes wrong in the prison service by calling for the resignation of the Home Secretary".

Prisoner escapes from court

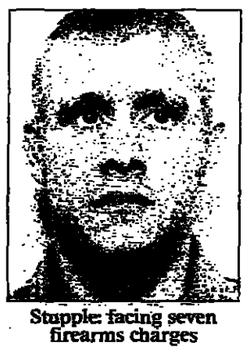
A PRISONER being held on firearms charges escaped yesterday as he was being taken to appear in court.

Mark Stupple ran away from his police escort as he was being walked from a prison van to Tower Bridge Magistrates' Court. He had been taken there from the high-security Belmarsh prison in Woolwich, southeast London.

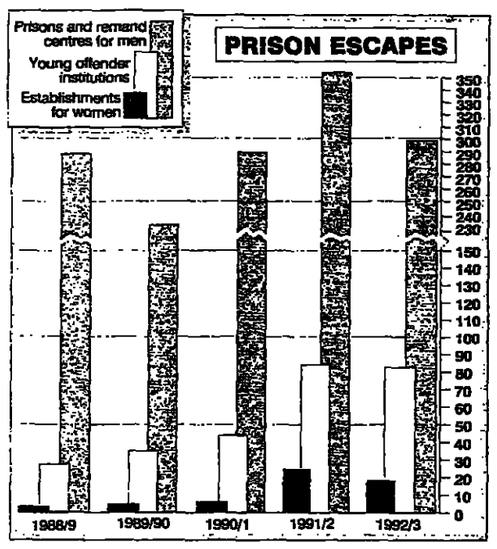
Stupple, of Southwark, south London, was arrested before Christmas after the discovery of firearms in a London flat. He is also accused of conspiracy to supply a class B drug.

Detective Superintendent Micky Banks, who is leading the hunt for Stupple, said: "We consider him a very dangerous character and we're pretty desperate to catch him. He was charged with seven firearms offences. These involved a machine pistol, sawn-off shotguns, revolvers and ammunition.

"The weapons are undergoing forensic tests at the moment to see if they have been used in any robberies or shootings."



Stupple: facing seven firearms charges



Prison escapes almost halved

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

ESCAPES from jails in England and Wales have almost halved during the past two and a half years, according to the Director-General of the prison service.

In spite of this improvement, Derek Lewis's tenure as head of the service will be overshadowed by the two catastrophic breaches at the top security jails at Whitemoor in Cambridgeshire and Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight.

The breakout by five IRA men and an armed robber from the special security unit at Whitemoor and the escape by two murderers and an arsonist from Parkhurst is much more serious than the 346 who absconded from Kirkham open prison near Preston in 1993-1994.

Since November 1988, 75 prisoners have escaped from jail and remained free for more than a year. Almost half had been convicted of drugs offences. The most notorious prisoners still on the run are Ronnie Biggs, who escaped in 1965 from Wandsworth and now lives in Brazil, and George Blake, who fled from Wormwood Scrubs in 1966 and is in Russia.

In the seven months to November 1994, there were 162 escapes from closed jails, young offender institution and escorts, a prison service spokesman said last night. The figure includes the Whitemoor breakout.

The prison service said that the there had been an overall drop of 37 per cent in escapes since 1992-1993. It said by October 1993, only 48 of the 389 who escaped up to April of that year were still at large.

■ A prison officer at Parkhurst was taken to hospital today after helping put out a fire in a cell started by a prisoner's cigarette.

Money is key to life on the run

By Stewart Tendler

GETTING out of Parkhurst could be the easy part for the three lifers on the run. Unless the trio has cash or help from friends and the underworld, staying free could be much more difficult.

John O'Connor, former commander of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad, said none of the men was top-flight criminals and forecast that they would not last long on the outside. "It all comes down to money," he said. "The only way is by committing crime. A good armed robber or a burglar can get away with it."

But Geoff Parratt, the detective chief superintendent who arrested Rodger for the murder of a nightwatchman, thinks that if they head for London they could easily disappear. Rodger, a judo black belt with relatives in London, lived for years off burglaries.

Other officers pointed out that if the three were not caught quickly, when the hue and cry died down they would be largely forgotten. No list of fugitives is routinely circulated to police forces and no force is likely to form a specific squad to hunt the three unless there is pressure.

One east London officer noted the case of a wife murderer who walked out of a mental hospital and vanished to Bangladesh. Police did not investigate far until the victim's family got their MP to ask the Yard what had happened. The man was traced and brought back.

James Moody, who escaped from Brixton prison with the IRA man Gerard Tuite in 1981, lived for years in south London within a few miles of the Yard. The police found him after 12 years when he was shot dead in a bar.

No faults found on crashed plane

An interim report into the crash of an Air Algerie Boeing 737-400 which narrowly missed houses at Coventry last month will today disclose that the altimeters were correctly set and had no obvious defects.

Investigators from the Transport Department's air accident investigation branch will now spend several months studying the crash. The cargo plane ploughed into a wood on approach to Coventry airport, killing all five people on board.

Knight pursued

Ronnie Knight will be sued for compensation by Security Express after he admitted receiving £314,000 from a £6 million robbery at the company's headquarters 12 years ago. Knight, 60, was jailed for seven years at the Old Bailey on Wednesday.

Anthem protest

The Ulster Unionist leader Jim Molyneaux has turned down an honorary doctorate from Queen's University, Belfast, in protest at the replacement of God Save the Queen with Ode to Joy, the European anthem, at graduation ceremonies.

Abductor's baby

Julie Kelley, 22, who admitted abducting a newborn baby from a maternity ward, has given birth to a daughter. Kelley, who was put on probation for three years for taking Abbie Humphries, is at a secret address with the 9lb girl.

Double shooting

Police are investigating the apparent revenge murder of a man shot dead at his home in Bradford, West Yorkshire, by a gunman who then turned the weapon on himself. One theory is that it followed a falling out between business partners.

Boy dies in gym

Martyn Wilson, 14, died from head injuries after falling during a gym class at Rye Hills School, Redcar, Cleveland. Education officials said that he slipped and banged his head while doing step-ups on a bench that was only 18 inches high.

Craddock service

The television cook Fanny Craddock was cremated in Eastbourne yesterday after a private service attended by family and friends. Her ashes were later scattered under a rose tree with those of her husband Johnny, who died in 1987.

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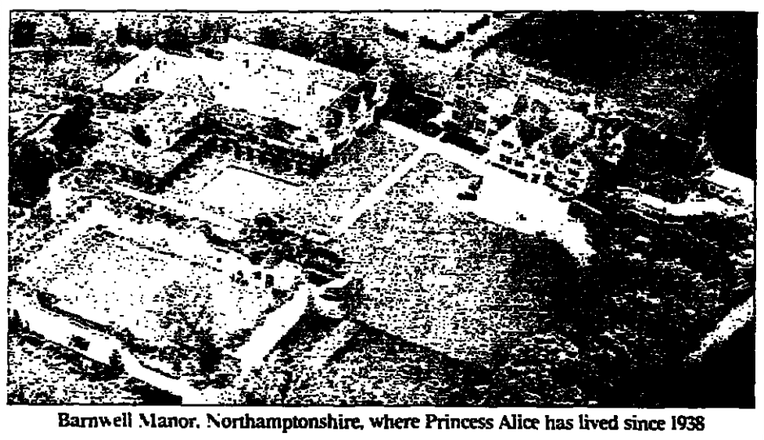
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Barnwell Manor, Northamptonshire, where Princess Alice has lived since 1938

Gloucesters leave Barnwell

Continued from page 1

years due to the size of Barnwell Manor, and these are difficult times for farming," he added.

Last year it was estimated that the Duke would qualify for some £236,000 in European Union farm subsidies. He also receives £175,000 a year from the Civil List.

Described as a reluctant royal, the Duke, 50, is a qualified architect, a teetotaller and non-smoker. Six weeks after his marriage to Danish-born Birgitte Eva van Deurs in July 1972, his brother, William, was killed in a flying accident and he inherited the title on his father's death two years later.

The have three children: Alexander, Earl of Ulster, Lady Davina Windsor and Lady Rose Windsor.

Barnwell was described last night as a fairly modest house with about eight bedrooms and four reception rooms. The estate consists primarily of arable farmland with a few small woods and spinneys. There are no livestock and, apart from occasional family shoots, it is not used for sporting activities.

An estate official emphasised that it was run on strictly commercial lines, and that the reason it was being retained was that it was important to the family finances.

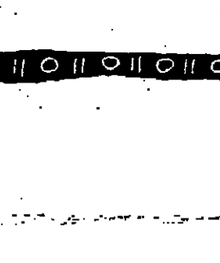
The Duke was educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge. He is president of a number of charities, including the Cancer Research Campaign and the National Association of Boys' Clubs. He is also president of St Bartholomew's Hospital, which is under threat of closure: and patron of ASH, the anti-smoking group, and of the Richard III Society, which maintains that the king was a victim of Shakespeare's calumny.

The Princess, née Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott, is a daughter of the seventh Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry. She married Prince Henry, younger brother of Edward VIII and George VI, on November 6, 1935.



Princess Alice with the Duchess of Gloucester, Lady Rose Windsor, Alexander, Earl of Ulster, Lady Davina Windsor and the Duke of Gloucester

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Court told British accountant was shot after he posed threat to international cigarette fraud

American denies hiring hitmen to kill partner

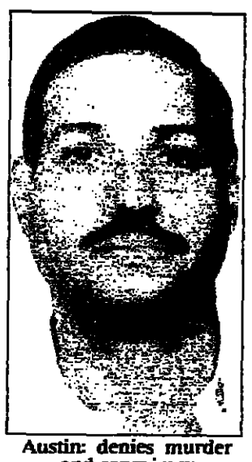
BY KATE ALDERSON

A BRITISH accountant was put to death by two hooded gunmen after an American conman ordered his execution from across the Atlantic, a court heard yesterday.

David Wilson, 47, was shot dead by two hired killers at his home in Lancashire in March 1992 after becoming involved in a fraudulent business deal with Michael Austin, of New Jersey, Carlisle Crown Court was told. Mr Austin, 39, yesterday denied murdering Mr Wilson and of conspiring to murder him.

Henry Globe, for the prosecution, told the court that Austin was the mastermind behind a massive fraud involving Marlboro cigarettes and Wilson had been hired as a middleman. "David Wilson had become a troublesome associate of Michael Austin for some time and by the end of 1991 Michael Austin's future success was under threat from David Wilson. As a result, put simply, he had him murdered," said Mr Globe.

He told the jury that there was no suggestion that Mr Austin was one of the two gunmen, but that they were highly paid assassins who were still at large and had never been brought to justice. Referring to Mr Austin Mr Globe told the court: "It was he who was behind the cigarette fraud. It was he who was concerned about what harm Mr Wilson had already caused him and could cause him in the future and it was he who made plans to get rid of Mr Wilson."



Austin: denies murder and conspiracy

At the centre of Mr Austin's fraud operation was his claim that he could acquire massive amounts of Mexican-made Marlboro cigarettes which could be sold as American cigarettes at a higher price. This scheme would net a large profit. Mr Austin claimed that one shipment had a market value of $20 million (£13 million), and he managed to convince commodity dealers around the world from America to Europe to invest large amounts of money in the business.

However, there were no Mexican cigarettes, the court heard, and Mr Austin had lied to dealers and bankers. Through his middlemen he managed to fool a number of investors into producing cash by showing them false documents. Mr Austin would then cash the credit notes in a Swiss bank account he held under another name.

The court heard how Mr Austin used a number of aliases and was known to Mr Wilson as Hector Portillo. Mr Globe told the court that Mr Austin masqueraded under a number of identities, sometimes as a Mexican colonel or a relative of a former Mexican president, and continuously changed his name to avoid detection.

He allegedly ran his business operations from his rented flat in New Jersey. Clients or contacts could never dial directly through to him and instead had to leave messages on an answering machine which Mr Austin would regularly check.

"None of those who were associated with him knew his true identity," said Mr Globe. "He knew who he was dealing with but not vice-versa. David Wilson did not know the true identity of who he was dealing with." He added: "Not even his trusted assistants knew who he was."

Mr Wilson's involvement in the cigarette scam ultimately led to his death the court was told. On the evening of March 5, 1992, two gunmen wearing balaclavas arrived at Mr Wilson's home in Withnell, a small village near Chorley, Lancashire.

"At about 8.45pm there was a knock on the door and the terror that is sometimes portrayed in films or on television became reality," said Mr Globe. Mr Wilson had gone out for the evening with Lisa-Marie, his daughter, and Barbara his wife.

His other daughter, Michelle, answered the door to the gunmen who forced their way into the house and waited for Mr Wilson's return. One of the gunmen told Michelle that they were visiting her father because he had "been talking to the fraud office".

Mr Globe told the court this was true, but Mr Wilson's business association with Mr Austin had gone wrong and he had been arrested. He had "thereafter gone to the police to help them with their investigations."

When Mr Wilson returned home at 11pm the whole family was tied up. One of the gunmen told Mr Wilson that somebody had paid a lot of money for them to come to talk to him. They took him to the garage saying they wanted to talk but, instead, he was shot twice in the head. "There had been no chat, no talk," said Mr Globe. "That had never been intended. There had been what you might think was an execution."

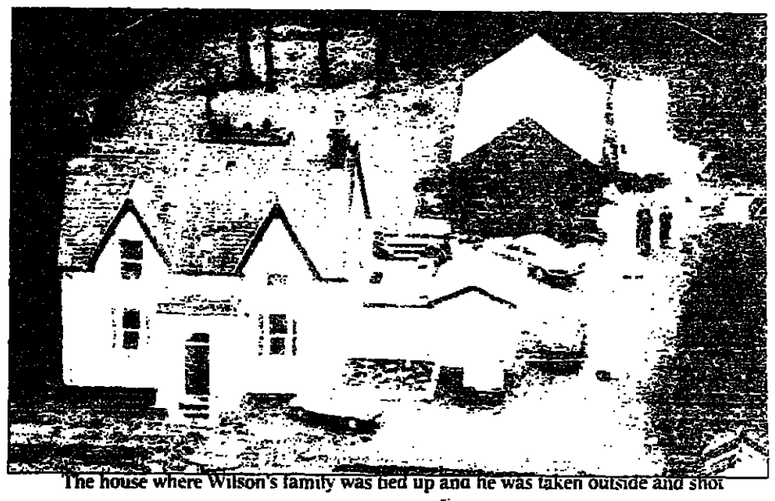
The trial, which is expected to continue for up to eight weeks, is being staged amid tight security. Austin's arrival at court yesterday morning was accompanied by two dozen armed police officers carrying semi-automatic weapons.



Armed police on guard outside Carlisle Crown Court yesterday. The trial of Michael Austin is expected to last eight weeks



Wilson: a "troublesome associate", he was shot twice in the head by two hooded gunmen



The house where Wilson's family was tied up and he was taken outside and shot

Childline engaged for abused girl

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

A PAEDOPHILE was jailed for eight years yesterday after his victim described how she suffered abuse for more than a year because the charity helpline Childline was continually playing its answering machine. The abuse of the girl, aged 11, was discovered only after she wrote a "letter" to herself, describing how she could never get through. It was found by a family friend, who told the girl's father.

The girl had written: "I'm scared because I'm being sexually abused. I have tried phoning Childline but it is always on the answering machine." Winchester Crown Court was told. "My mother doesn't believe me. I have tried to get the man out of my head and have decided to write it down. I have tried the Childline number 15 times. I have been counting."

David Woodnutt, 34, of Totton, Southampton, admitted rape, attempted buggery and two offences of indecent assault on the girl between March 1993 and May 1994.

House blown up in divorce battle

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MAN ordered to leave his home after a divorce settlement blew up the house and tried to commit suicide as bailiffs arrived to evict him, Coventry Crown Court was told yesterday.

Richard Bright, 38, from Dods Leigh, Staffordshire, doused his four-bedroom detached home with petrol before wiring himself to a tea-making machine in his bedroom in order to electrocute himself. The house was gutted by the explosion. The two bailiffs, a locksmith and an estate agent who had come to evict him took refuge behind a garage as the £135,000 house was rocked by a "massive explosion". Mr Bright was rescued when the locksmith persuaded him to climb down.

Mr Bright, an electrical engineer, denies arson and being reckless as to whether human life was endangered.

The jury was told that Mr Bright separated from his wife Elizabeth in September 1993, and remained in the matrimonial home after Mrs Bright moved out. In February last year, a judge presiding over the divorce case decided that the house would have to be sold, but Mr Bright refused to leave and bailiffs arrived to evict him in August.

Andrew Tucker, for the prosecution, said Mr Bright must have been aware that he was putting other people's lives in danger, as he knew the appointed arrival time of the bailiffs. Just before they arrived, a neighbour saw him putting his dogs in a kennels away from the house and asked him what he was doing. Mr Bright replied that he did not want the dogs to get hurt.

Mr Tucker said: "One can sympathise with anyone who is about to be evicted from their home, but that does not justify putting at risk the lives of people who are only there to do their jobs."

Mr Bright said: "I set fire to the house because of the way I was treated in the divorce proceedings."

The trial continues today.

War veteran to celebrate century with a pension

BY CATHERINE MILTON

A VETERAN of the First World War has won a service pension just six months before his 100th birthday. Robert "Jimmy" Hutton, 99, who is believed to be the last surviving veteran of the Cheshire Yeomanry, said: "They have finally recognised what I did. At my age it is the principle, not the money, that's important."

He says he was mentioned in dispatches in 1914 for his service in the Middle East as an Acting Sergeant. "I've got a letter from 1914 commending me for my service to the army but it has taken all this time for my service to be acknowledged," he said.

The former soldier from Birkenhead, Merseyside, applied for benefits in the 1920s when he was suffering from stomach problems. He claims that application was turned down after doctors said he was fit for work.

In 1992, Mr Hutton reapplied after spotting a newspaper advertisment exhorting all First World War veterans to apply for unclaimed benefits before the end of that year. Once again he says he was turned away.

Mr Hutton persisted and this year heard his case had been reviewed. He was awarded a war disability pension of £29 a week for 30 per cent deafness. The pension will be back-dated to 1992 but he is not entitled to claim for the 32 years he has been officially a pensioner.

Mr Hutton, whose wife died 15 years ago, retired from his job as a shipwright when he was 65 and since then has received a state and company pension. He is angry that he did not know he was entitled to a war pension and that he will not get the two years backdated pension in a lump sum. "It's not much use to me over a long time at my age," he said.

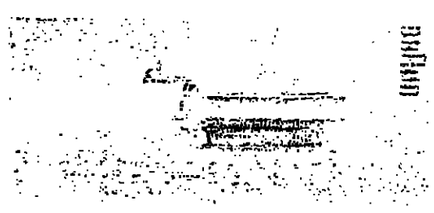
His son James Hutton, 62, said: "It's a shame they won't backdate the money to his 65th birthday. After all, he should have been entitled to it."

A spokeswoman for the War Pensions Agency said that claimants had a right of appeal or could ask for a review, which should be handled within 27 weeks.

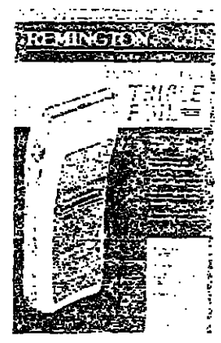
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Eight former Tory ministers hold 40 posts in business

BY ANDREW PIERCE

EIGHT of John Major's former ministers have taken up 40 paid directorships and consultancies, some of which are directly linked to the Government posts they held.

The Register of Members' Interests, published today by Labour Research, also shows that four out of five Conservative backbench MPs hold paid consultancies. The disclosure comes weeks after the Prime Minister responded to the rising tide of sleaze allegations by declaring: "The House of Commons should not be a hiring fair."

Few of his retired ministers have heeded his words. David Mellor, the former Heritage Secretary, has built up the most lucrative portfolio of consultancies — 12 paid posts since he resigned in 1992.

Four of his consultancies are with defence manufacturers which may be involved in Government contracts or sales to overseas governments. Another is with Ernst & Young, the accountancy and management consultancy firm, which in the past year has worked for the Department of National Heritage and the Home Office, in both of which Mr Mellor held senior posts.



Mellor: has taken up 12 paid posts since 1992

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, is a director of N.M Rothschild, the merchant bank, and John MacGregor, the former Transport Secretary, has returned to his former employers, the merchant bank Hill Samuel, which advised the Government on the high-speed Channel tunnel rail link.

A committee under Lord Nolan conducting a review of standards in public life will shortly examine payments to MPs for parliamentary services and the paid appointments of recently retired ministers. Other former ministers who hold related jobs are Sir Archie Hamilton, the former defence minister, Edward Leigh, who was sacked as a trade and industry minister, Nigel Forman, who quit as education minister in 1992, Tristan Garel-Jones, the former foreign office minister, and Sir Nicholas Scott, former minister for the disabled.

The analysis shows that 300 out of 243 Tory backbenchers hold a total of 276 paid directorships and 365 paid consultancies. This compares with 14 per cent of Labour MPs and 43 per cent of Liberal Democrats.



"Business as usual": Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamed greets Kenneth Clarke

Clarke courts Malaysians

Kuala Lumpur: Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday met Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, to review British companies' involvement in development projects in Malaysia.

The relationship between the two countries was stormy for most of last year in the wake of the Pergau Dam affair. Malaysia banned British firms from competing for government contracts in retaliation for British press reports claiming that Anglo-Malaysian trade was tainted with corruption. The seven-month ban was lifted in September.

Mr Clarke said it was now "business as usual". He said he would encourage British firms to invest in Malaysia and offer training and transfer of technology. *(Reuter)*

Redwood to urge cuts in tax and spending

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

A CABINET rightwinger will urge the Government today to cut back harder on public spending and to reduce taxes.

John Redwood, the Welsh Secretary, is expected to tell Conservative activists that controlling spending is crucial to Britain's economic success and that the country cannot afford tax levels higher than those of its main competitors.

He will assert that the Government has reached the limit of what the country is prepared to pay and that more of the proceeds of future growth should be put into people's pockets. He is expected to counter claims by opponents and lobby groups that the Government is cutting public spending, saying that every year, including next year, it is going up.

Mr Redwood's remarks are likely to be seen as a veiled challenge to Kenneth Clarke to make stronger efforts to control spending and to the Chancellor's repeated claim that the most recent public spending settlement was one of the toughest.

When confronted with the Commons defeat over raising VAT to 17.5 per cent, Mr Clarke chose to make up for the loss of revenue by increasing taxes on beer, cigarettes and spirits rather than looking for more spending cuts. Some ministers questioned that decision in the Cabinet meeting that preceded Mr Clarke's "mini-Budget" statement but eventually acquiesced.

In his speech today Mr Redwood is expected to point out that next year's increase in general government expenditure is some 4.5 per cent, double the rate of inflation, a settlement that can hardly be described as a huge squeeze.

He will call for more cuts to be made in the running costs of Government, running at £20 billion, saying that further cuts can be found without damaging services.

☐ The Government faces a Commons defeat that threatens to delay its legislative programme unless it can win the support of Tory MPs who have lost the party whip. The nine rebels will be pressed by opposition parties next week to back calls for the Government to lose its majority on Commons committees that study the detail of new legislation.

Opposition parties have joined forces to demand that because the Government is now in a minority it should lose its majority on standing committees. Ministers will argue in next week's debate that removing the whip is an internal party matter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

12-year ban for 130mph driver

A motorist who sped along a dual carriageway at 133mph was banned from driving for 12 years and fined £2,500 yesterday. Leilit Ali, 30, of Inverness, was in a BMW when he was stopped on the A9 near Pitlochry, Tayside.

Perth Sheriff Court convicted Ali of dangerous driving, an offence he had committed twice before, last month. Sheriff John Wheatley told him that he had been "ludicrously irresponsible".

Lees reward

A "substantial" reward was offered yesterday by family and colleagues of Andrew Lees, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth, for information on his whereabouts. Mr Lees, 56, disappeared six days ago after entering a rainforest in Madagascar.

West order

Judge Aglionby has granted an order in the High Court protecting the five younger children of alleged mass murderer Frederick West from publicity. The decision follows reports that alleged confessions of their father, found hanged in prison, are being offered for sale.

Light damages

A prison inmate who received cuts to his face while playing football has received £1,500 damages. David Horay, 24, sued the Home Office after colliding with an unpadded security lighting pole during a match at Walton jail, Liverpool.

Child in danger

Police fear for the safety of Hasna Khatun, the three-year-old girl who saw her mother murdered. Detectives in Washington, Tyne and Wear, have appealed to the Bangladeshi community for information about the killing of Amina Khatun.

Meningitis tests

Scientists are trying to establish whether the meningitis that killed Ryan Blow, aged 19 months, in Southampton on New Year's Day was the same virulent strain that has killed two five-year-old girls from Rottingdean, East Sussex, since Boxing Day.

Physio suicide

A physiotherapist with Swindon Town FC killed himself because he thought he was going to lose his job, an inquest in Swindon was told. A verdict of suicide was recorded on Kevin Morris, 55, who was found dead in his car on October 11.

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12-year ban for 130mph driver

Call for less worship of a better quality

Habgood questions need for religious assembly in schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Archbishop of York questioned the need for daily religious assemblies in schools yesterday and called for a review of the law.

Dr John Habgood, the Church of England's second most senior figure, said that badly conducted assemblies were putting children off religion. He added: "There would probably be advantages to having less worship but of a better quality."

Dr Habgood, speaking at the North of England Education Conference in York, said: "There are continual complaints about the hypocrisy of those who are not themselves believers teaching others how to worship." The Government should listen carefully to teachers' complaints.

Nine out of ten schools are already flouting the law, according to head teachers, many of whom are struggling to find staff prepared to lead religious worship, but a government circular issued last year made no concessions.

Dr Habgood said: "It is absolutely clear that schools do not create Christians and should not be expected to. Church schools have a rather different role and one would expect it to be done with rather greater conviction there."

He emphasised that there was an important place for religion in schools and stopped short of calling for daily worship to be abolished. But he said: "The system is not working as it is. Therefore it is a good idea to have another look at it in proper consultation with the teachers."

In an alternative vision of school worship, calculated to inflame traditionalists, Dr Habgood suggested less frequent assemblies supplemented by occasional visits to churches and mosques. Schools should aim to provide pupils with a "vocabulary of worship" and to place significant events in a "larger human and possibly religious context". Such assemblies need not be Christian, he said. "People have got to do it in a language that is right for them."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "I'm absolutely delighted that the Archbishop has seen reality. An increasing number of schools are finding it difficult, if not impossible, to deliver daily acts of collective worship."

The association has demanded that schools should not have to organise more than one act of collective worship a week, but the Education Department said yesterday that there were no plans to amend the legislation, which dates back to 1944.



Habgood: "The system is not working"

Dr Habgood's remarks, made after a conference speech, attracted immediate criticism. Colin Hart, director of the Christian Institute, said: "It is naive to assume that reducing the number of days on which worship is required will lead to an overall increase in school worship. It will lead to its near elimination."

Nick Seaton, chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, who regularly attends York Minster, said: "He is quite wrong to signal the end of a daily act of worship. This has been the law of this country for 50 years, and it is important that youngsters get some sort of moral guidance from this."

Dr Habgood's views echo proposals made last year by the Evangelical Alliance, a report subsequently repudiated by some of the alliance's leading members, suggested that the law should be amended to require assemblies only twice a week.

Dr Habgood, 67, an Old Etonian, has long shown a close interest in education. As the teaching unions united to boycott the Government's programme of tests in 1993, he said that school league tables should take second place to an emphasis on the quality of life and schooling. Dr Habgood, who retires in August, has also given a warning against the risks of teaching school children about "safe sex" without proper reference to moral considerations.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a Tory former Education Minister and a former headmaster, said: "Morning assembly, well taken, is not only a religious experience, it gives discipline for the day. If teachers are not prepared to fulfil the law they should find someone else who is."

Lady Olga Maitland, Tory MP for Sutton and Cheam, said: "In the Year of Evangelism, I am absolutely astounded that Dr Habgood should say this. He should be standing up for the faith, rather than surreadering to other forces." Retired priests would be delighted to take assemblies, she said.

The Church of England's board of education is reviewing its policy on religious assemblies in school. The board is seeking the views of those in the church and in education on whether to maintain a daily act of worship or whether to adopt a less frequent practice.

Preaching fire, page 9

JUSTIN SLEE



Alf Hodgson, a former trawler skipper, on board the vessel where he will soon be able to conduct marriages

Trawler weddings offer historic opportunity to become a fishwife

BY PAUL WILKINSON

ONE of England's first wedding parlours is set to open in a museum dedicated to deep-sea fishing. Happy couples will be given the chance of dressing up in oilskins and waders for a ceremony conducted by a former ship's captain in the fish hold of a trawler.

The bride may also choose to arrive for the wedding on a 19th century horse-drawn fish cart and the wedding breakfast could include a three-tier fish cake topped by models of the couple in smocks and sou'westers.

Surprisingly, there are people prepared to indulge in the experience offered by the National Fishing Heritage Centre in Grimsby, south Humberside. Emma Booth, 23, from Whitehaven, Cumbria, hopes to be the first next June. "My fiancée, Ivan Mork, comes from a fishing family in Grimsby which goes back generations. We already live together, so a white church wedding seemed inappropriate. Really it will just be a fun day out for all our families, something special to remember the occasion.

"I am not sure about the fish cart and I shall be leaving the oilskins to the men, but provided nobody calls me a fishwife, it should be a great day for all of us."

Richard Doughty, the centre's curator, said they were taking advantage of a forthcoming change in the law which will allow anyone to compete with churches and register offices for weddings. The fishing museum, run by the local authority, is the first in what promises to be a long list of locations offering off-beat services for couples seeking an unusual start to married life.

He said: "There has been a bit of opposition from the church locally, but we are only doing what the Government wants us to do — diversify and pay our way. We took the lead from the Natural History Museum in London which hires out its premises for parties. We already offer facilities for wedding receptions and this is a simple extension of that.

"We have taken on Alf Hodgson, a former trawler skipper, to conduct the ceremony on the *Ross Tiger*, a former fishing vessel permanently moored at the centre. It follows the traditional idea of a marriage at sea by the ship's captain." A registrar from the local office across the road will step in at the appropriate moment to supervise the vows which make the wedding legal.

"Eventually we hope to offer weddings at sea and a honeymoon inside the Arctic Circle, where some of the old deep-sea fishing grounds lay. We are all about entertaining and amusing people and providing a unusual and outrageous service."

The service should be available from the spring after the 1994 Marriage Act comes into force.

Blunkett hints at opt-out deal to end rift

BY JOHN O'LEARY

THE first steps were taken yesterday towards a compromise to close the Labour Party's rift over grant-maintained schools.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, offered an olive branch to the supporters of opting out. He promised an audience dominated by Labour local authorities that eventually there would be a consensus on a new management system to embrace all state schools.

Labour has been embroiled in a row over grant-maintained schools since Tony Blair, the party leader, applied to send his son to the London Oratory School. Party policy, outlined in a white paper last summer, remains that the schools should lose their status and return to a "local democratic framework".

Mr Blunkett gave no hint of the final shape of Labour's proposals but promised a partnership of parents, local authorities and schools. "It is my job to make real that partnership, to get everyone involved in how we move forward, rather than accepting the silly proposition that there are only two options: one to go backwards and the other to accept Conservative Party policy."

He promised talks in the next few months with representatives of the grant-maintained sector, as well as of local authorities. Despite falling foul of the party leadership over independent education, he insisted he had "sufficiently broad shoulders" to continue raising sensitive issues.

Mr Blunkett, speaking at the North of England Education Conference in York, said: "It is not beyond the wit of man or woman to build upon the development of local management of schools so that we can draw together all schools with a comprehensive admissions policy to lift the quality of education for all."

He defended Mr Blair's decision to send his son to a grant-maintained school and acknowledged that there had been some truth in past accusations of town hall bureaucracy.

Pressure grows to ban exports of live calves

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND ALICE THOMSON

THE Government is coming under increasing pressure to ban the export of live calves for the veal trade after a Labour MP yesterday called on ministers to support his private member's Bill outlawing the practice.

After the third day of riots over livestock exports when 17 animal rights protesters were arrested, Eric Martlew, MP for Carlisle, has written to William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, urging him to support his Bill.

Livestock exporters were planning to ship another cargo to France on the *Northern Cruiser*, which was yesterday on its way back to Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, after transporting nine lorries containing calves and sheep to Dieppe.

Gavin Strang, Labour's chief agriculture spokesman, told a meeting of farmers in Anglesey that the export of calves should be banned immediately and that the shipping of live sheep should be phased out.

Mr Martlew's private member's Bill is to have a second reading in the Commons on February 3. "It is ridiculous that the Government which banned the domestic use of veal crate production in 1990 still allows British calves to be exported to be incarcerated in such a barbaric manner," Mr Martlew said.

Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat's rural affairs spokesman, accused Labour of a counter-productive campaign. He said eastern European suppliers would soon fill the gap in the market, transporting livestock in much worse conditions.

The Farmers' Union of Wales said yesterday it was seeking an urgent meeting with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to demand better police protection.

☐ One of Britain's biggest exporters of calves appeared in court yesterday on charges of cruelty to animals.

Geoffrey Hall, 52, managing director of Albert Hall Farms, was accused at Easingwold Magistrates' Court of transporting the week-old calves for 37 hours without any stops for food, water or rest. He denied the charges.

Two transport companies from Nottinghamshire — Ken Lane Transport Ltd of Hayton, and Europan Ltd of Clarborough — also deny causing suffering.

Scientists test rhythm method 'traffic lights'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A SEX "traffic light" that tells couples when it is safe to make love without using contraceptives is to be tested on patients.

The device, based on a miniature computerised monitor that analyses hormone levels in the woman's urine, detects when pregnancy could result from sex. It shows red when the women is about to ovulate and green at other times.

It is expected to appeal to older couples in stable relationships and to Roman Catholics who object to contraception on religious grounds. Pregnancy is possible only for a few days each month when a new egg is present in the woman's reproductive tract.

The device, which has taken 15 years to develop, is seen as a significant advance over methods of natural family planning that rely on daily observations of body temperature and other changes that indicate ovulation.

Professor Bob Snowden, a specialist in family studies and reproductive behaviour at Exeter University, who is co-ordinating nationwide trials of the system, described it as a "revolutionary" advance. "I have been working in this field for 27 years and you come to the conclusion that there is nothing which is going to show any significant advance. Then this monitor suddenly arrived. It is the biggest development in 20 years. Tens of millions of pounds have been invested in it. The machinery we are using is so sensitive it can pick up hormones that we never knew were there in the past. Eventually, I think it could replace the Pill if it is as good as it is claimed to be."

The Family Planning Association was cautious. "It sounds like an interesting option but natural family planning is a minority pursuit, used by 1 per cent of the population compared with 23 per cent who use the Pill," a spokeswoman said. "For the average couple there are nine days in the month when they cannot have unprotected sex."

The makers of the device said the price had not been decided but there would be an "initial outlay" to cover the cost of the monitor.

☐ Tunbridge Wells's reputation for middle-class respectability is intact after a survey showed the Kent town has the lowest rate of under-aged pregnancies in the country — 3.6 per thousand girls aged between 13 and 15.

Ancient treasure trove uncovered

BY MARIANNE DARCH

A TEAM of British-led archaeologists have discovered a trove of ivory, bronze and pottery dating back to the ancient Ethiopian kingdom of Aksum, at a site near the Queen of Sheba's Palace in northern Ethiopia, local radio reports in Ethiopia said yesterday.

The team of 20 archaeologists, headed by professor David Phillipson of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, uncovered the treasure dating back to the third century AD in the Tomb of Brick Arches, at the site on the Tigre plateau, 350 miles from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

"The tomb is incredibly rich, literally jam-packed with stuff. We have gone down 40cm and it is so full of material you cannot move," Jacke Phillips, research assistant on the Aksum Archaeological Research Project in Cambridge, said yesterday. "We have also found human bones of a single person scattered at the site."

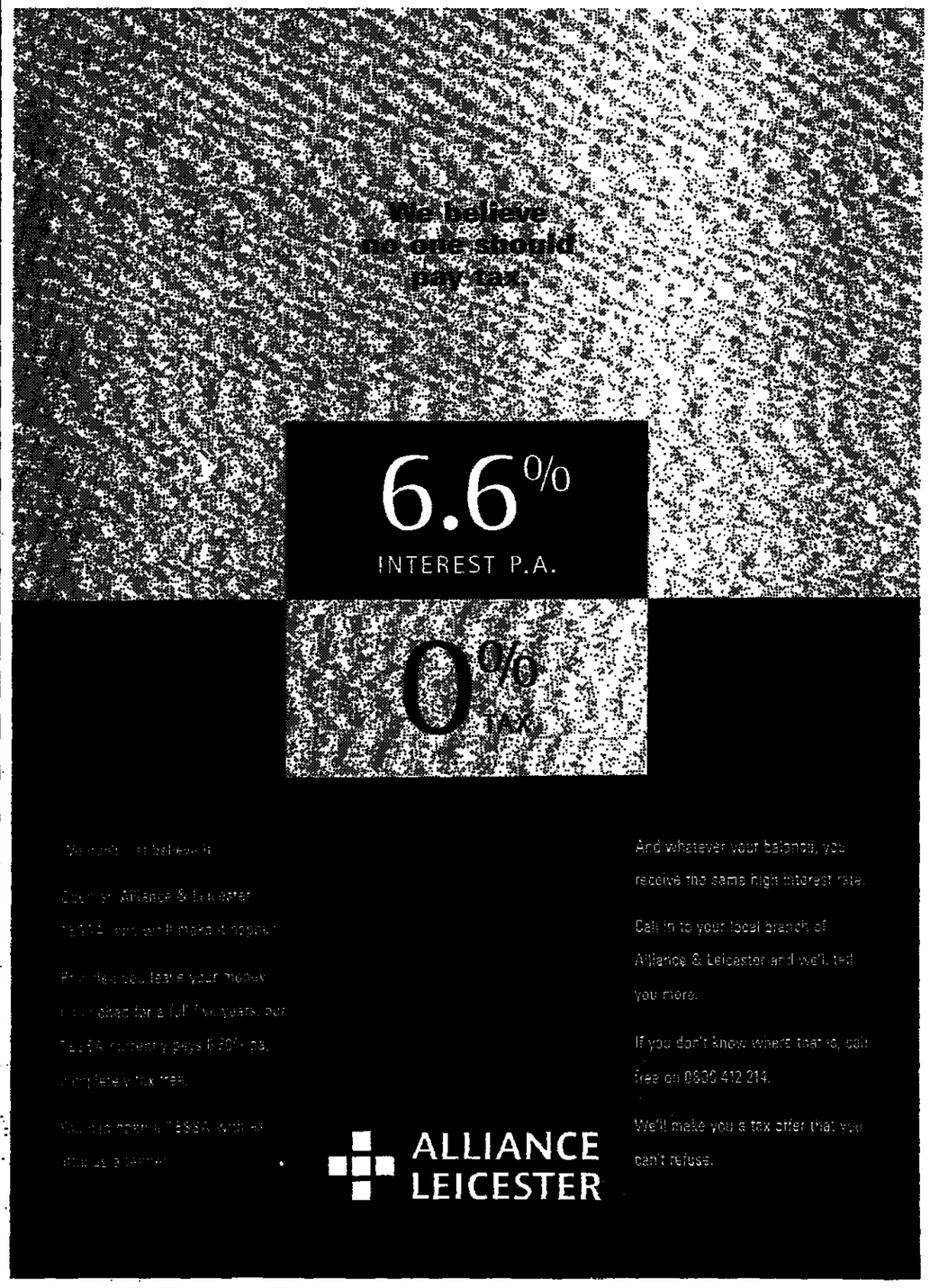
The group, which consists of ten Britons, an American and nine Ethiopians, has been working in the area in conjunction with the Centre for the Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage, part of the Ethiopian Ministry of Cultural and Sports Affairs, for two years.

The site was discoverd in 1974 by a team led by Neville Chittick, director of the British Institute of East Africa, shortly before archaeologists were forced to leave the country due to the Ethiopian war of 1975. Impressive granite stelae, or monoliths, 100ft high and elaborately carved, had originally been recorded by a German expedition in 1906 but further archaeological work did not take place until after the Second World War.

The archaeologists, who have now finished work for the season, hope to return to the site for a further three years to research into the development of Aksum as a major trading state. The discovery of a number of bronze and iron plaques with glass inlays have caused particular excitement.

The Aksumite kingdom dates back to the third century AD and linked South Arabia and Somalia with Nubia and the southern frontiers of Roman Egypt.

The Aksumite civilisation was at its height during the Roman empire, and was once called "the last of the great civilisations of antiquity to be revealed to modern knowledge".



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Motorway plan exposes rift in Labour policy as fight shifts to Scotland

Anti-road protesters converge to protect historic woodland

By Gillian Bowditch and Nick Nuttall

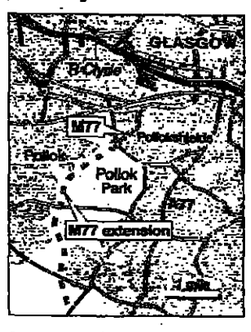
ANTI-ROAD protesters converged on Glasgow yesterday as the fight against the Government's road-building programme moved to Scotland.

A mass trespass is expected on Saturday as up to 3,000 conservationists and residents fight to stop a seven-mile extension to the M77. The protesters claim that the scheme, which links the M77 at Dumbreck with the A77 at Malletsheugh, will damage Europe's biggest urban green space, the Pollok Grounds.

The road will destroy two woodlands gifted to the citizens of Glasgow before the Second World War. The route also cuts through White Cart Water, home to otters, kingfishers and heron. Mr Doar said that construction and traffic noise as well as heavy metals, oil and other chemicals running off the motorway could devaste these fragile populations.

There are fears that increased traffic may also cause health problems among the 40,000 inhabitants of the nearby council estates.

The dispute over the road, which has triggered objections

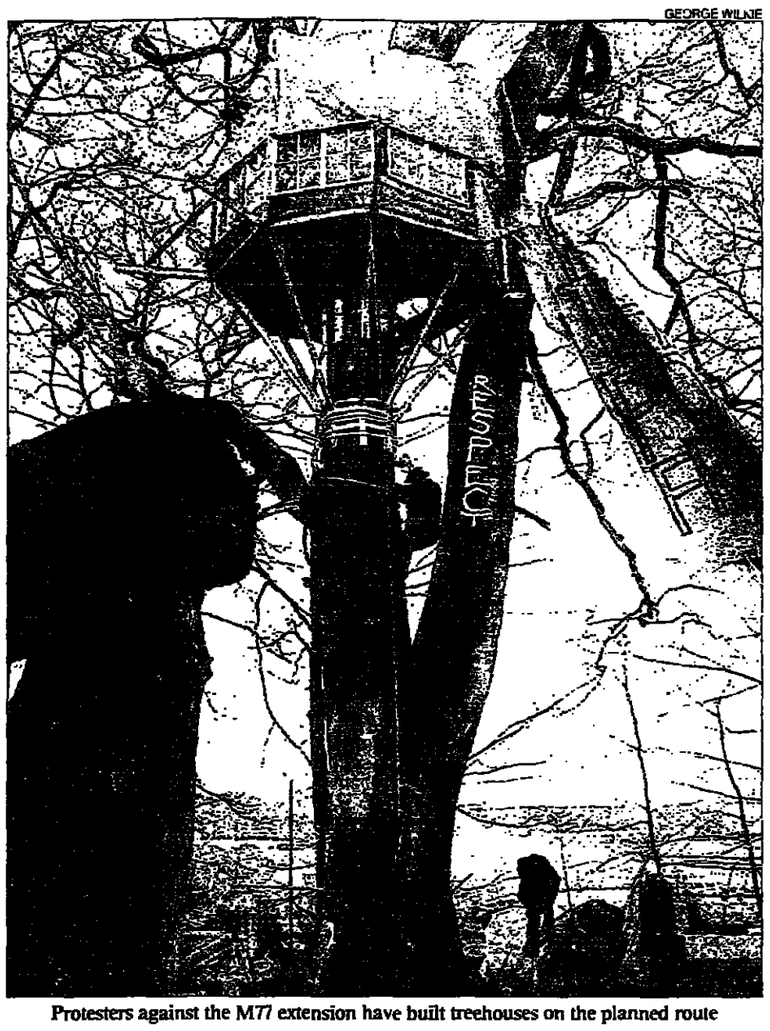


from mainstream conservation organisations including the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the National Trust, has also become a test for the Labour party's new policy on road building. Officially the party wants a moratorium and a review of existing main road schemes after evidence that they contribute to the growth in traffic rather than reduce congestion. But Strathclyde Regional Council, which is Labour-controlled, has resisted calls for the motorway to be abandoned, claiming it is essential for the city's vitality.

The protesters have set up camp on the estate on Glasgow's south side through which the road will pass. The self-styled Pollok Free State consists of an elaborate series of tarpaulin-covered shelters and tree houses. Banners proclaiming "Earth First, Profits Last" lie alongside hand-made totem poles and carved stones. The first car in a "car henge" has been embedded in concrete on the road's route. Dozens of nails have been drive into trees scheduled for destruction in an effort to slow the contractors' chain saws.

Wimpey Construction has been given the go-ahead to start work on the £50 million road on Monday but is still holding talks with protesters. Chris Huntley, the company's spokesman, said yesterday: "We are taking them very seriously. But we are also taking them at their word. They have said their protest will be non-violent."

A spokeswoman for the council, which is due to be disbanded in 16 months time, before the road is completed in June 1997, said the time for talk had passed. said 1,080 trees would be removed but 165,000 would be planted and 600 jobs created. "Wherever possible environment issues have been taken into consideration and the road modified accordingly," she said.


GEORGE WILKIE

Protesters against the M77 extension have built treehouses on the planned route

Wave of protest breaks over hot holiday posters

By Marianne Curphey

CLUB 18-30, notorious in the 1980s for raunchy holidays for young singles, is courting controversy again with its latest advertising campaign.

Hoarding posters featuring slogans of which the mildest is "Discover your erogenous zone" have appeared in city centres, prompting complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority.

The posters have been designed by the Conservative party's favourite advertising agency, Saatchi & Saatchi. Moray Maclennan, its joint managing director, said the message was "tongue-in-cheek and not intended to offend".

He said: "They are meant to reflect the attitude and spirit of Club 18-30 and the experience you would have on such a holiday. They are all about fun and irreverence and are for a specific audience. We do not want the wrong sort of people to choose these holidays."

Becky Impey, Club 18-30's marketing manager, said: "The people who are complaining are not the type you would expect to see on a Club 18-30 holiday. It is fair to say we have a reputation for sun, sea, sand and sex because we sell a fortnight of Saturday nights."

The Advertising Standards Authority said it had received complaints that the posters were tasteless, offensive and encouraged promiscuity, but added: "It is not our role to act as censor and we would be unlikely to investigate unless the campaign was overtly offensive."

Most of the posters in the £300,000 campaign have been put up north of Birmingham, where most Club 18-30 holidaymakers live, although Cardiff, Bristol and Belfast have also been included. A second wave of posters is expected next month.

David Alton, the Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill, who saw one outside Everton football club's Goodison Park grounds, said: "It is irresponsible to sell holidays by using sex as a marketing ploy." A poster at Roath, Cardiff, was condemned by nearby St David's Church as "appalling".

☐ Holiday companies enjoyed a record summer last year and demand is continuing strongly for the winter, new figures show. Overseas packages licensed for consumer protection rose 15.5 per cent in the summer to 11.42 million, the Civil Aviation Authority said.

In 12 months to last September, 16.6 million passengers took air holidays, paying an average of £356 and taking tour operators' total revenue to £5.9 billion. More than 5.9 million holidays have been licensed for this winter, a 14 per cent increase on this time last year.

Hill-top giant angel causes an unholy row

By Paul Wilkinson

GATESHEAD is to be overlooked by a hill-top figure of an angel likened to the huge statue of Christ at Rio de Janeiro.

The plan for the 60ft-high steel structure, with outstretched wings spanning 140ft, has caused an outcry on Tyneside. Opponents are condemning it as pretentious nonsense and an environmental disaster.

Anthony Gormley, the artist who won last year's Turner Prize for sculptures modelled from moulds of his naked body, designed the angel, which is destined for a prominent site above Gateshead. It was commissioned by the city council, which expects its £300,000 cost to be met by the European Union and British arts organisations.

Martin Callanan, leader of the council's Tory group, described the statue as a heap of rusty meatal the height of a four-storey house. "It will go down as environmental vandalism on a massive scale," he said. "The money should be spent on something people can use and enjoy."

But Sid Henderson, chairman of the council's arts committee, said: "The angel is of major importance to the region as a whole. Anthony Gormley's talent is internationally recognised and the figure will be a significant asset to the borough."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has refused to hold a public inquiry and councillors intend to grant permission next month.

Trust to kill off moorland strangler

By Michael Hornsby

THE National Trust has declared war on the rhododendron, the evergreen shrub with bright pink flowers beloved by many gardeners. This year the trust is to spend £10,000 on destroying the aggressive plant on parts of Exmoor and the Quantock Hills in Somerset where it is threatening to smother acres of moorland.

A group of volunteers has already begun cutting down dense areas of the shrubs in the Bincombe area of Exmoor. The culprit is the common variety of the plant, *Rhododendron ponticum*, which collectors introduced to Britain in 1763. The plant thrives on acidic, free-draining soils and can wipe out heather moorland, an important habitat for many birds and butterflies.

Nigel Hester, the trust's countryside manager for West Somerset, said: "It is essential that we control this weed, and the trust intends to give high priority to the allocation of financial resources to achieve this."

Grazing animals, the usual method of controlling invasive scrub, are of little use against rhododendron, the trust said. Llamas are believed to be the only animals that will eat the plant.

***Other areas under threat* are upland landscapes in Snowdonia and lowland heath in Surrey. The rapid spread of the plants is also said to be hindering the regeneration of oakwoods in parts of western Britain.**

Lamb shoulders the price cuts

BARGAINS are available on British lamb this weekend (Roland Buerk writes). Lamb shoulder is only £1.59 a lb at Safeway, and Sainsbury's has cut its price for boneless lamb legs to £3.59 a lb. British lamb liver is down to £1.18 a lb at Safeway.

As many fishing boats remained in port during the holiday season, seafood is more scarce than usual and more expensive. Imported fish is still plentiful. Snapper, grouper, kingfish and swordfish are worth seeking out. Steaks start at £4.50 a lb, portion-sized fresh fish are between £3.50 and £5.50 a lb.

Advertised best buys include: **Asda**: stuffed and basted chicken, 79p a lb; Birds Eye vegetable kievs, 99p for two; Oakdale golden madeira cake, 39p; **Budgens**: Richmond Irish recipe sausages, 79p a lb; Pedigree chum £2.68 for 8x400g; 4x125g pack of Ski diet yoghurts, 79p. **Co-op**: frozen cannelloni, 62p for 340g; Schwartz cooking sauces, 99p; Miller pilsner £6.99 for 12x440ml; double concentrated tomato purée, 19p a tube. **Harrods**: Normandy camembert cheese, £3.05 each; farmed salmon, £5.50 a lb; freshly squeezed orange juice £1.95 a litre.

Iceland: Healthy Options chicken tikka platter, £1.99; boneless chicken breasts, £3.99 for 900g; cauliflower and broccoli floret mix, 99p for 2lb; **Marks and Spencer**: chicken casserole and dumplings, £2.25; standard minestrone soup, 99p; extra strong tea bags, £2.19 for 160; **Safeway**: unsmoked British middle bacon, 98p a lb; braeburn apples, 45p a lb; Hungarian country white wine, £2.29; **Sainsbury's**: rump steak, £2.98 a lb; Sicilian white/red wine, £2.29; Canadian cheddar, £2.55 a lb; baked beans, 99p for 6x420g.

Somerfield: fresh smoked cod fillets at £2.29 per lb; white grapefruit 16p each; Heinz tomato ketchup squeezy, 62p for 460g. **Waitrose**: Scotch beef diced braising steak, £2.69 a lb; gold trout (cleaned and prepared), £2.59 a lb.

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Racial victory proves divisive

A SIX-YEAR study of racial violence in a West Yorkshire town has shown it has diminished but at the cost of creating a community divided along racial lines, the institute will be told today (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Colin Webster, of Bradford and Ilkley Community College, has studied racial abuse and harassment in Keighley. "I have seen a change in relations between Asians and whites in a way that reduced racial violence," he said. "But this is due to the success of Asian young people in consolidating and defending their own areas. They have defended their rights and attacked known white racists. Now they have a greater feeling of security. But the community is in some ways more divided than before."

He found that as many white people as Asians complained of being the victims of racial violence.

Census missed a million of the neediest people

GEOGRAPHERS' CONFERENCE

THE 1991 census, one of the ten-yearly surveys on which government funding and social research rely, missed a million people. In some inner city areas half of young men in their twenties may not have been counted (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Homelessness, suspicion of authority and the campaign against poll tax registration were the chief reasons why the survey missed more people than any other census this century, Professor Stephen Simpson told the Institute of British Geographers' Conference yesterday. People living in flats were also reluctant to open their doors because of worries about security. Professor Simpson, of the Census Microdata Unit at Manchester University, said. The published census figures of 56,098,000 million people already includes more than a million who did not return forms but who were believed to be living in Britain on the basis of census-takers' reports. But the best part of another million are believed to have been missed altogether.

Although a small proportion of the total, the "missing million" were not equally distributed, the professor said. His own studies suggest that young people, either homeless or of no fixed address, were missed in large numbers. "It wouldn't matter if people were missed randomly," he said at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne. "The difficulty is that they are people who pose problems for social policy, because they may well be homeless, unemployed or both. If they are ignored, we could be lulled into a complacency born of ignorance, and the places where they live will get fewer resources from government than they need."

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys has conceded that in inner city areas a fifth of men in their twenties may have been missed, Professor Simpson said. But his analysis suggested that the results were worse than that. Apart from 300,000 missing young men, there was serious undercounting of women over 85, of whom 5 per cent were missed.

Libby Purves, page 14



The 1991 census: it missed more people than any other this century

Gay tourists bound for Britain

GAY tourism, one of the fastest-growing trends in American travel, will soon catch on in Britain, with special travel agents, favoured gay destinations and "gay days" at resorts, a New York academic said yesterday.

Professor Briavel Holcomb, of Rutgers University, told the Institute of British Geographers the existence of openly gay communities made Britain an ideal destination. "London and Brighton are known as gay centres and Birmingham made an unsuccessful bid to host the 1998 Gay Games. Gay tourism will undoubtedly expand here."

Elderly deal with fear of crime

ELDERLY people are far less afraid of crime and more ready to defend themselves than popularly believed, according to new research (Lucy Berrington writes).

When elderly people do feel high levels of fear it is because they are female, Dr Rachel Pain, lecturer in social geography at Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, said. "Old women are terrified. Old men are not," she said. Two thirds of people of pensionable age are female.

"A lot of old men have weapons such as blunderbusses and baseball bats by their beds. If you fought in the Second World War you'll be frightened rather less when someone breaks into your house," Dr Pain said.

The findings, to be presented today to the annual conference of the Institute of British Geographers, conflict with Home Office and police advice to the elderly which assumes high levels of fear despite what is claimed to be a low risk.

However, previous research had underestimated the risk, Dr Pain said. Many studies took little account of domestic abuse by relatives and other carers.

Caribbean immigrants fail to realise dream of going home



Jamaican families arriving at Southampton in 1961

A TENTH of the Caribbean immigrants who arrived in the 1950s and early 60s returned home in the 1980s and less than a third of those remaining are likely to follow them, the conference was told yesterday (Nigel Hawkes writes).

According to Dr Margaret Byron of King's College London, most of those who have stayed still talk of going home. However, her research among a group of immigrants from Nevis, in the Leeward Islands, who settled in Leicester, suggests that only about 30 per cent will achieve their ambition to return.

Her work is part of a comparative study being carried out with Dr Stephanie Condon, of the National Institute for Demographic Studies in Paris, into Caribbean immigration into Britain and France. When the Caribbeans arrived here, she said, 90 per cent or more declared an intention to return home eventually. They hoped to save money for a plot of land back home, but could find only low-paid jobs and never earned enough. Even those able to return may hesitate because care for the aged in the Caribbean depends greatly on family links, which have been broken.

In France a more open immigration policy had enabled people to come and go more freely. "Mothers will come for a few years to help their daughters with children, then go home," she said. "In Britain that was impossible because they could only have come for six months."

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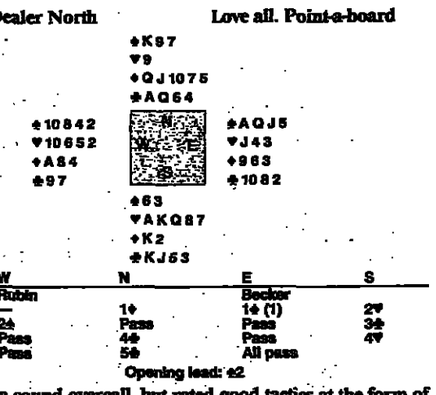
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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North **Love all. Point-a-board**



W	N	E	S
Rubin		Becker	
—	1♦	1♠ (!)	2♥
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	5♣	All pass	

Opening lead: ♠2

(!) Not a sound overcall, but rated good tactics at the form of scoring. How should East defend?

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is a hand from the 1994 Reisinger Trophy in Minneapolis. Becker and Rubin report an accident on the hand. Declarer played low from dummy on the spade lead, and East won with the jack. He returned the three of diamonds, his partnership agreement from three small.

Whatever the merits of it as a method, it produced a muddle here. Declarer played low and West won the ace. If the declarer had something like:

♠x ♥AKQJxx
♦xx ♣KJxx

it was necessary at this point for the defence to cash a second diamond trick before they were discarded on declarer's hearts. So Rubin continued diamonds. This resulted in the declarer making Five Clubs.

Afterwards Becker explained how he should have avoided the accident. Since his partner has led the two of spades, East knows that a second spade will stand up. (Playing fourth-best leads, his partner cannot have more than four spades.) So he should win the first trick with the *queen* of spades. This will deceive West into thinking that the declarer has the jack, so he will switch back to spades after winning the ace of diamonds.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Prodigy shines

BRITAIN'S chess prodigy Luke McShane, who celebrates his eleventh birthday tomorrow, has added one more record to his list of achievements over the past year. In the challengers section of the Hastings international tournament Luke has defeated Alan Shaw, a member of the Scottish national team which participated in last month's Moscow Olympiad (the World Championship for national teams).

Earlier in 1994 Luke had become the youngest British player to achieve an international rating, the youngest British player ever to draw with a grandmaster and the youngest British player ever to defeat an international *master*.

As Luke sets the records tumbling, he has also scored an excellent 5 points out of 8 in the challengers section, just 1.5 points off the joint lead. Luke's participation at Hastings was made possible by the Brain Trust charity, which covered his expenses during the event.

White: Alan Shaw
Black: Luke McShane
Hastings Challengers
January 1995

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	g3	Nc6
3	Bg2	g6
4	Nc3	Bg7
5	d3	d6
6	Nh3	Nf6
7	0-0	Bg4
8	f3	Bxh3
9	Bxh3	0-0
10	Be3	Ne8
11	Qd2	Nc7
12	Rae1	b6
13	Bh6	Bd4+
14	Kh1	Re8
15	f4	e6
16	e5	dxe5
17	fxe5	Bxe5
18	Rxe5	Nxe5
19	Bg5	Qb8
20	Ne4	Nd7
21	Qf4	f5
22	Qd6	Rd8
23	Bxd8	Qxd8
24	Qxd7	fxe4
25	Bxe6+	Kh8
26	dxe4	Qxd7
27	Bxd7	Rd8
28	Bg4	Kg7
29	Rf2	Rd4
30	Re2	Kf6
31	e5+	Ke7
32	Bc8	Rd8
33	Bb7	b5
34	Kg2	b4
35	Bc6	c4
36	c3	bxc3
37	bxc3	Rd3
38	Rb2	Ke6
39	Rb7	Nd5
40	Bxd5+	Kxd5
41	Rxh7	Rxc3
42	Rxa7	Kxe5
43	Kh3	Rc2
44	Ra6	Kd4
45	Rxg6	Rxa2
46	Rd6+	Ke3
47	Rc6	Kd3
48	g4	c3
49	Rd6+	Kc4
50	Rc6+	Kd4
51	g5	c2
52	Kg4	Kd5
53	Rc3	Ra4+
54	Kf5	Rc4
55	Rxc2	Rxc2
56	Kf6	Rc6+
57	Kf7	Ke5
58	g6	Rc7+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 40

Judiciary's elitism fuels call for reform



LONDON HITS A
SHOW FACTS UPDATE
LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW 95
EARLS COURT
5TH - 15TH J

Judiciary's elitism fuels call for reform

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST senior judges are still educated at private schools and Oxbridge, according to figures published today. An analysis of promotions to the High Court bench in 1993 and 1994 has found that of 26 judges appointed, 21 attended Oxford or Cambridge and all went to fee-paying schools.

The publication of the figures coincides with a Law Society report to a committee of MPs which urges that the present "word of mouth" system of selecting judges be scrapped in favour of Civil Service-style selection procedures.

The analysis of the backgrounds of judges by Stephen Byers, Labour MP for Wallsend, comes as the Commons' home affairs committee is about to start its first inquiry into the way judges are chosen, and is expected to fuel pressure on MPs under the chairmanship of Sir Ivan Lawrence to scrap the present system.

A report to go to MPs from the Law Society, which has commissioned independent research, concludes that the present system "falls short of what is required in a modern recruitment system", and "places excessive weight on the views of serving members of the judiciary" and leaders of the profession. Instead, the society wants modern selection methods, including extended tests and interviews as used by the Civil Service, to reduce the weight placed on references.

Mr Byers's analysis shows that senior appointments are still dominated not only by Oxbridge graduates, but also by men. Of the 26 judges appointed in 1993 and 1994, only three were women.

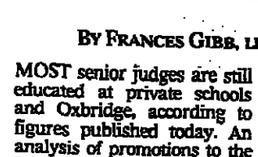
The findings also show that the average age of those appointed was 53 with the oldest being Mr Justice Sachs, the first solicitor to become a High Court judge, who was over 60 when appointed.

Mr Byers, who chairs Labour's home affairs committee, said: "These findings confirm that our senior judges continue to come from a narrow social and educational background. Given their limited experience of the world, it is hardly surprising that all too often our judges appear to be out of touch with everyday life."

In its draft report, the Law Society praises recent reforms such as advertising of appointments and new selection panels including lay members. However, it says too much emphasis is placed on the performance of an advocate, which tends to put solicitor-advocates — who are not as well known among the senior judiciary — at a disadvantage.

It also criticises the need for lawyers to work part-time as assistant recorders before being appointed as a full-time judge. Such part-time work is more disruptive to solicitors who have responsibilities to their partners, the society says, and suggests the option of doing blocks of part-time work.

Modern selection methods would enable judges to be appointed to full-time circuit posts by the age of 40, and enable more solicitors and women to be made judges, the society says.



Byers: hardly surprising judges seem out of touch



Spreading the word: the Rev William Davies, former principal of Cliff College, and Professor Henry Mitchell, a Southern Baptist, at the preaching conference yesterday

TIM SMITH

Preachers urged to put more fire into sermons

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

PREACHERS must speak more from experience and less from a dry intellectual base if they are to put fire and spirit back into the pulpit, according to two of America's leading Southern Baptists, preaching in England yesterday.

Dr Henry Mitchell, 75, professor of homiletics in Atlanta, and his wife Ella, 77, also a professor at Atlanta, who regularly preach to congregations of several thousand, told a conference of nearly 200 preachers near Sheffield that knowledge about religion counted for little if a preacher could not bring a congregation to "an experience of God".

Ella Mitchell, who preached for nearly half an hour before analysing her sermon to describe how she kept her audience rapt, said the art of good preaching meant making a congregation "identify with what is said" rather than bewildering them with abstract ideas. Timing, suspense, involvement, perception and identificaton were the keys, she said.

In her sermon, based on the first two verses of Psalm 27, she said: "The more successful we are, the more envious enemies we have, and the more we smart from the unjust mistreatment we receive." God limits the efforts of mischief-makers "by letting them get tripped up," she said. "No enemy of God has ever succeeded."

Henry Mitchell, who has lectured at Yale and is the author of several books on black preaching, said: "What we are doing could be thought of as avant garde, but it is really about recovering the vitality of the pulpit of 150 years ago. Preachers would then deliver a much more moving message than has been traditional in the mainstream denominations in recent years."

He linked the rise in confidence of black American preachers to the post-war civil rights movement. "Whereas a typical black educated preacher was once prone to follow western styles, black preachers are now no longer ashamed of their own culture, and are in many ways proud of it," he said.

The conference, at the Methodist Church's Cliff College, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, has arisen out of a growing interest among young ministers and laity in how to become a better preacher, and increasing demand from bored congregations for more inspiring performances. Other speakers include the Rev William Davies, a former principal at Cliff College.



John Wesley: set high standards in the pulpit

For two centuries in Britain the Methodist church, whose founder, John Wesley, set the standard for the great preaching of the late 18th century, has traditionally led the field in preaching skills. But in recent decades this mantle has been assumed by Southern Baptists and other evangelical churches in America.

Increasingly, these vibrant churches with their fiery preachers are seen as models from which the traditional, dry British clergyman has much to learn. The Rev Howard Mellor, principal of Cliff College, said: "Yes, there is bad preaching. There is badly prepared preaching, badly delivered preaching, and preaching in which points are made but no opportunity for celebration or response is offered.

"I think there has developed in England a kind of scholarly monotone, and it is assumed that sermons delivered in this way are above criticism. It is then assumed that people who are enthusiastic do not have the scholarship. What we need is good scholarship, enthusiastically portrayed."

He linked the rise in enthusiasm for preaching to a revival of evangelical as opposed to liberal theology. "There is now a greater confidence about the church and its theology than 20 years ago, when liberalism was at its height and everyone was debating the death of God."

THE TIMES
Put your preacher forward

READERS are invited to submit nominations or nominate themselves for the College of Preachers/*The Times* Preacher Of The Year award, with a first prize of £1,000 and a specially commissioned sculpture. Five runners-up will each receive £200.

The award is open to lay or ordained preachers aged over 18 of any UK Christian church with regular access to a pulpit or preaching platform.



PREACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINATION FORM

Name of nominated preacher .....
Church/ religious organisation .....
Address .....
Postcode ..... Day Tel .....

I enclose a typed manuscript of a sermon by the preacher not exceeding 3,000 words (tapes are not acceptable).

Name and daytime phone number (essential) of person making the nomination .....

Send to: The Preacher of the Year Award, c/o Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent, *The Times*, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN

Entries must be received by March 31, 1995.

Survey claims Britain worst for car crime

BRITAIN tops the international league for car crime with a vehicle broken into every 21 seconds, according to a survey published today (Tim Jones writes).

It shows that although a car is stolen every 2.2 minutes, one in five is left unlocked. According to the survey, by Key Note, the business information company, up to 90 per cent of vehicle crime is opportunistic and one third of cars stolen will never be recovered. Almost 3.5 per cent of car owners in England and Wales last year reported being a victim of crime, compared with 3 per cent in Italy and Australia, joint second on the list.

The report says the fear of car crime will lead owners to spend up to £34 million on car security products this year — a figure which will begin to decline in 1997 as more new vehicles have security devices fitted as standard. High performance cars are most at risk, with the Ford Fiesta RS Turbo topping the list, followed by the Vauxhall Astra GTE and the BMW 318i Coupe. Next is the VW Corrado 16v followed by the BMW 320i, the BMW 325i, Ford Orion 1.6i Ghia, Rover Metro 1.4 GTi and VW Golf 2.8 VR6 and the Ford Escort RS Turbo.

There were 1.5 million recorded car crimes in Britain in 1993. Of these 598,000 were thefts of vehicles, and 926,000 from vehicles.

Hundreds mourn death fall acrobat

MORE than 300 mourners attended the funeral yesterday of the acrobat who fell to his death at Blackpool Tower Circus on Boxing day.

They heard tributes to the skill and dedication of Neville Campbell, 20, who died while performing the Wheel of Death without a safety net.

His father, a circus veteran also called Neville, and his mother Pauline had to be helped into the church. They wept as the Rev Rob Gladstone spoke of the "tragic death of a born showman".

Mr Gladstone said: "Little Nev, as he was known to his friends, was even baptised in a circus ring. At the age of three he was walking in stilts and doing handstands in the laundry basket.

"He even sent his mum to Oxfam to buy the material for a clown's costume. At the age of 20 he achieved his lifelong ambition of becoming the top act at the Blackpool Tower Circus."

He said Mr Campbell, one of four brothers, had also represented Britain in a performance before The Prince and Princess of Wales at Expo 89 in Brazil. "He lived life to the full and his family and friends have so much to give thanks for."

The funeral was at St Mary's and All Saints Church, near the circus's home at Trentham, Staffordshire. Mourners brought floral tributes depicting characters from the Big Top.

After the service, the circus impressario Gerry Cottle said: "Nev was a genius. He had a rare talent and fantastic enthusiasm."

LONDON BOAT SHOW HITS A NEW HIGH

THE WORLD'S BEST

From 5th to 15th January, the world of boating comes spectacularly to life at Earls Court with an enormous range of sail and power boats, marine equipment and accessories displayed in a style unequalled the world over.

SHOW FACTS UPDATE

FREE ADMISSION FOR CHILDREN*
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800 BOATS AND CRAFT
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OVER 50 NEW EXHIBITORS
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3 NEW PIAZZAS WITH SEATING IN NEW HALL
14 BARS AND CAFES
4 RESTAURANTS
CHILDRENS PLAYCARE CENTRE
EARLS COURT TUBE SURFACES RIGHT INSIDE THE SHOW

WORLD RECORD HIGH DIVE

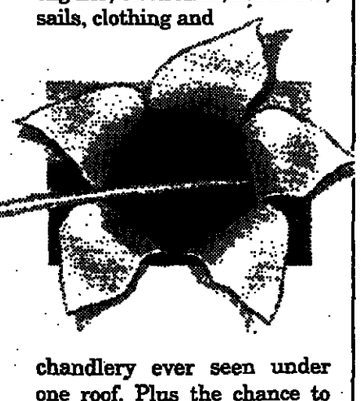
Another Boat Show first. Indoor World Record attempt from the roof of Earls Court and daily spectacular high dives from over 80 feet.

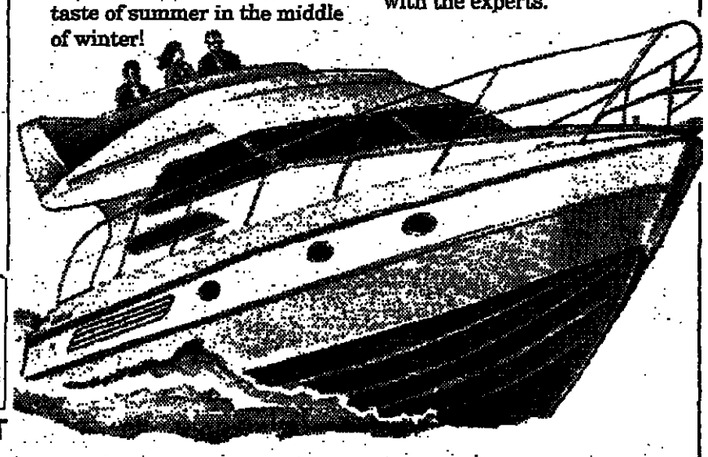
COME AND HAVE A GO

The giant central pool is the setting for an all-action display: GO BOATING WITH VOLVO. There'll be sailing and windsurfing, a stunning waterski display, plus have a go at dinghy sailing, canoeing, rowing, model yachting, sail hoisting and simulators to test your skill. Fun for all the family, and a taste of summer in the middle of winter!

EQUIPMENT GALORE

This Show really could be called the London Boat and Equipment Show. There's the most comprehensive range of engines, electronics, hardware, sails, clothing and chandlery ever seen under one roof. Plus the chance to discuss just what you need with the experts.





LONDON INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW '95
EARLS COURT

5TH - 15TH JANUARY 1995

British Marine Industries Federation

ADMISSION
Adults £8.00
Senior Citizens £6.50
After 4pm Adults £5.50

OPENING TIMES
10am to 7pm (6pm Jan 15)
LATE NIGHT SPECIAL - 9.30pm ON THURSDAY JAN 12th

*FREE ADMISSION FOR CHILDREN
2 Children under 16 admitted FREE when accompanied by an adult. Additional and unaccompanied children £5.50.

Details correct at time of going to press, but may be subject to change

INTEREST RATES

REVISED INTEREST RATES
EFFECTIVE AT 9th JANUARY 1995

AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS %	NET %
CURRENT ISSUES		
RESOLUTION BOND		
£2,000 - £300,000 (INTEREST RATE IS GUARANTEED UNTIL 28/2/97)	8.60 ANNUAL	6.45
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £5,000 OR MORE	8.30 MONTHLY	6.23
NOVA PLUS SPECIAL ACCOUNT		
£200,000 - £300,000	5.65	4.24
NOVA PLUS ACCOUNT (INCLUDING CLOSED ISSUES TRANSFERRED ON MATURITY) **NOVA GROSS ACCOUNT** (NET RATES DO NOT APPLY FOR NOVA GROSS)		
£50,000 - £300,000	5.35	4.01
£10,000 - £49,999	4.80	3.60
£5,000 - £9,999	4.05	3.04
£500 - £4,999	3.25	2.44
£1 - £499	1.25	0.94
TESSA		
£1 - £9,000 (SUBJECT TO YEARLY LIMITS)	6.75	-
NOVA STAR (SEVENTH ISSUE) GUARANTEED MINIMUM 6% GROSS		
£5,000 - £300,000 (GUARANTEED MINIMUM 6% GROSS)	7.10 ANNUAL 6.85 MONTHLY	5.33 5.14
CLOSED ISSUES (ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE)		
NOVA GROSS SPECIAL ACCOUNT		
£200,000 - £300,000	5.85	-
NOVA STAR (SIXTH ISSUE)		
£5,000 - £300,000	7.10 ANNUAL 6.85 MONTHLY	5.33 5.14
SUPER 90 ACCOUNT		
£500 - £300,000 ON BALANCES OF £5,000 OR MORE	6.15 ANNUAL 5.83 MONTHLY	4.61 4.37
HIGH / EXTRA HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNTS		
£250 - £300,000	4.25	3.19
PREFERENCE SHARES		
£10,001 - £300,000	1.89	1.42
£1 - £10,000	1.25	0.94

Interest is payable net of basic rate income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or, subject to the required certification, gross. Cheques invested will earn interest from the fourth working day (inclusive) after receipt (working days exclude Saturdays, Sundays and English Bank Holidays) until the day prior to withdrawal. The net rates quoted are illustrative only and are after deduction of income tax at 25%. All interest rates shown are variable (except where indicated) and are correct at the time of going to print. Further details available on request.

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هكذا من الأصل

Settlers vow to wage civil war if troops withdraw

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

LEADERS of the 120,000 heavily-armed Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank pledged yesterday to begin a "Lebanese-style civil war" against local Palestinians if the Israeli Army meets its obligations under stage two of the peace treaty and withdraws from population centres there.

The plan, which has increased tensions after a recent upsurge of violence between Arabs and Jews, was made public following an emergency meeting of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and the elected mayors of West Bank Jewish communities. The settlers' threat was being taken seriously by the Israeli Government.

It was delivered as leading members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation are growing increasingly disillusioned about Israel's willingness to redeploy its troops and permit Palestinian elections which have already been delayed.

Speaking after the meeting, Eliakim Haetzni, a member of the ruling council in the militant settlement of Kiryat Arba on the outskirts of the predominantly Arab city of Hebron, said that it had been called to discuss how Jews would respond to any army redeployment. "The minute the Israeli Defence Forces are either vanishing or thinned out considerably, we shall have to take our defence into our own hands, which is understandable," he said on Radio Israel. His comments were apparently timed to boost those inside the Government already advocating an indefinite postponement of the second stage of the peace treaty signed in Washington 15 months ago.

"We do not usurp the task of security from our Government, we are not a militia. But if the Government relinquishes it, we shall take it up, which will turn the country into Lebanon." Mr Haetzni added. "There will be a shooting civil war between Jews and Arabs with many, God forbid, casualties."

Mr Haetzni, whose settlement has recently been pinpointed as the headquarters of a new Jewish terrorist underground involving members of the Israeli Army, claimed that the widescale bloodshed would force the army to return to its previous position of guarding the settlers.

The settlers' threats were made just as tension between Jews and Palestinians in the West Bank was rising as a result of Arab demonstrations against alleged Israeli land seizures.

Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, admitted yesterday that the Government would not prevent what he euphemistically described as the "thickening" of existing settlements.

Commenting on the new threats by the settlers, Hashem Mahemeed, an Arab Communist member of the Knesset, said: "I am afraid that if the settlers are going to take the law into their own hands, dangerous things might happen in the occupied territories and that would lead the area into a new era of bloodshed."

Secret survey shows Likud swing

Jerusalem: Publication of a secret opinion poll commissioned by the ruling Labour Party showing a big swing to the right and predicting victory for Likud in any snap election has provoked a storm in Israel (Christopher Walker writes).

Although the next Israeli election is not due until next year, the size of the swing away from the centre-left administration of Yitzhak Rabin is considered dramatic. Likud, under the leadership of Benjamin Netanyahu, has pledged to scrap the 15-month-old peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The existence of the poll was revealed by *Time* magazine in an exclusive report on its daily computer bulletin board. It claimed that if polling were held today, Labour would have only 27 members in the 120-seat Knesset, compared with the 44 it now holds.

Shimon Peres, the Foreign Minister, said yesterday he was not impressed by the findings of Labour's private poll. He told Israel radio: "Polls are like perfume — good to smell, but not to drink."

Britain chided for Euro opt-out

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

THE best way to end Britain's opt-out from European Union social policy is to change the Government, Martin Bangemann, the EU's Industry Commissioner, said yesterday.

Herr Bangemann, a federalist who has been renominated for his post, was asked how he contemplated cajoling Britain into relinquishing its opt-out clause. "I cannot persuade the British Government to end the opt-out on social policy. In that case I hand it over to you to replace it."

The answer was meant as a joke, but it was not certain whether it would be shared by the British Government, or Eurosceptic Conservative backbenchers. Herr Bangemann, a former German Economics Minister, is well-known for his insensitive comments about a federal Europe.

Irritation about Britain's social policy opt-out is widely felt at the European Commission, but John Major has repeatedly said that the measure is there to stay.



Martin Bangemann in Brussels yesterday. He is considered a keen federalist

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Muslim rebels halt UN convoy

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

CRITICAL United Nations operations in the Bihac enclave ground to a halt yesterday, after Serb-backed rebel Muslims held up a resupply convoy with anti-tank missiles and automatic rifles.

Bangladeshi peacekeepers were forced to turn off their generators for lack of fuel, leaving them without satellite telephones, computers, lights or heating. Armoured personnel carriers at the Bihac hospital to deter attacks are to be withdrawn as a result of the convoy blockage, a UN spokesman said.

Rebel Muslim troops, armed and organised by Serb military authorities, surrounded the convoy and pointed armour-piercing rockets and infantry weapons at the 16 lorries. "The stakes are quite high. It is critical to get fuel through to these Bangladeshi," said Michael Williams, the UN's senior spokesman in the region.

Brigadier-General Torben Goldberg, the UN's Danish head of logistics, is commanding the convoy because of the urgency with which the food and fuel on board are needed. Most of the 1,200 Bangladeshi troops are unarmed because surrounding Serb militia will not allow weapons to be sent to them. The rebels blocked an attempt to evacuate up to half of the battalion last month.

A UN official described the stand-off in the northwestern Bosnian town of Velika Kladusa as "extremely tense" with the rebel Muslim fighters rummaging though the UN convoy's load, "throwing some of the things into the snow". The lorries had been blocked since Wednesday. It is one of the most serious incidents in past months.

Last week, the Bosnian Serbs and the Government signed an agreement on a four-month cessation of hostilities which guaranteed the 23,000-strong international force freedom of movement.

☐ Peace talks: Diplomats from the Contact Group — America, Russia, Germany, France and Britain — met in Bonn yesterday to restart talks on a negotiated settlement in Bosnia. A meeting between the Bosnian Government and rebel Serb forces is to reconvene at Sarajevo airport today after the parties failed to agree on Wednesday on methods of verifying withdrawal and disengagement of forces. *(Reuter)*

Balladur cultivates Kohl as poll nears

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE'S electoral phoney war gave way to a taste of the real thing yesterday when Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, unveiled a back-to-basics manifesto and Jacques Chirac, his Gaullist colleague and rival, attacked him as ineffectual.

The jousting between the front-runner and the party leader, came as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, paid a private visit to M Balladur at his Alpine home in Chamonix, so signalling his readiness to work with him if he becomes President. A personal rapport with the German leader has been de rigueur for French presidents since de Gaulle.

With the field wide open for the Gaullists' civil war, M Balladur has abandoned his long pretence that his mind is on higher matters than the elections, scheduled for late April and May. His ministerial lieutenants have now struck up a well-orchestrated overture, praising him as the man best placed to lead France into the next century.

The Prime Minister gave a long interview yesterday in which he claimed credit for the burgeoning economic recovery and promised to heal the deep spiritual ills that are held to be afflicting France. "The objective of the presidential campaign is to give hope and optimism back to the French," he said. "That means telling them not to fear the future, convincing them that France is a great country."

A riposte came quickly from M Chirac, 62. He said that France was suffering from the same moral and political crisis as it did in 1958, when the Fourth Republic collapsed and de Gaulle was brought back from exile to head a new republic. The present leadership was wallowing in immobility and had been "overtaken by events".



Balladur: had a private visit from Helmut Kohl

Swiss avalanche fear

Davos: Swiss authorities yesterday warned skiers of continuing dangers of avalanches after ten deaths in the Alps in two days.

The Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research said all skiers above 5,940ft should take extra care and not stray away from marked trails. Swiss police said on Wednesday that two skiers injured earlier in the day in snow slides in the Valais Alps in the south of the country had died in hospital. Six people were killed on Tuesday in Austria and Switzerland. Two more were missing in Austria and rescue authorities said there was no chance of them being alive.

All the avalanches were started by people skiing off-piste. The institute said the movement of just one skier was enough to start a snow slide. There has been abundant snow over the New Year period. Because of the extreme cold it has not stuck properly to earlier snow. *(AP)*

هكذا من الاصل



West renews pressure on Yeltsin to halt siege

By Richard Beeston in Moscow and Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT Yeltsin came under renewed pressure at home and abroad yesterday to halt the siege of Grozny, the capital of Chechenia, where heavy fighting continued for a sixth day.

Attacked by politicians, hounded by the press and under intense pressure from the West to call off his offensive, which has lasted nearly four weeks, the Russian leader is likely to decide today whether to attempt one more assault to capture the city. He will convene his security council of key military and security chiefs to consider a fresh blitz on Grozny, where his troops are still bogged down in street fighting.

Reports from the capital of the breakaway Caucasus republic said that the Russians were thrown on the defensive again by the stubborn Chechen irregulars, who continued to control the city centre around the palace of the secessionist leader, General Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Mr Yeltsin's order to halt the bombardment yesterday was only partially observed by his men on the ground. Although air attacks did appear to be largely suspended, it was unclear whether the warplanes were grounded because of the thick fog or the Kremlin's change of tactics. Certainly, artillery bombardments did continue, and Russian aircraft were in action outside the Chechen capital.

The continued fighting in Grozny brought fresh calls by opponents of the war, such as Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party head, and Grigori Yavlinski, a liberal leader, for Mr Yeltsin to step down and face early elections. Valentin Kovalyov, a communist politician who has broken ranks with his colleagues by supporting the war, was rewarded yesterday by Mr Yeltsin, who appointed him Justice Minister. However, there was no let-up in the fierce attack against the Russian leader from the press, which appeared for the first time yesterday after the public holidays and reacted with venom to the New Year's Eve blitz on Grozny.

Most of the papers criticised the Government's press service, whose naked propaganda has released repeatedly false claims about the battlefield successes of Russian troops on the ground.

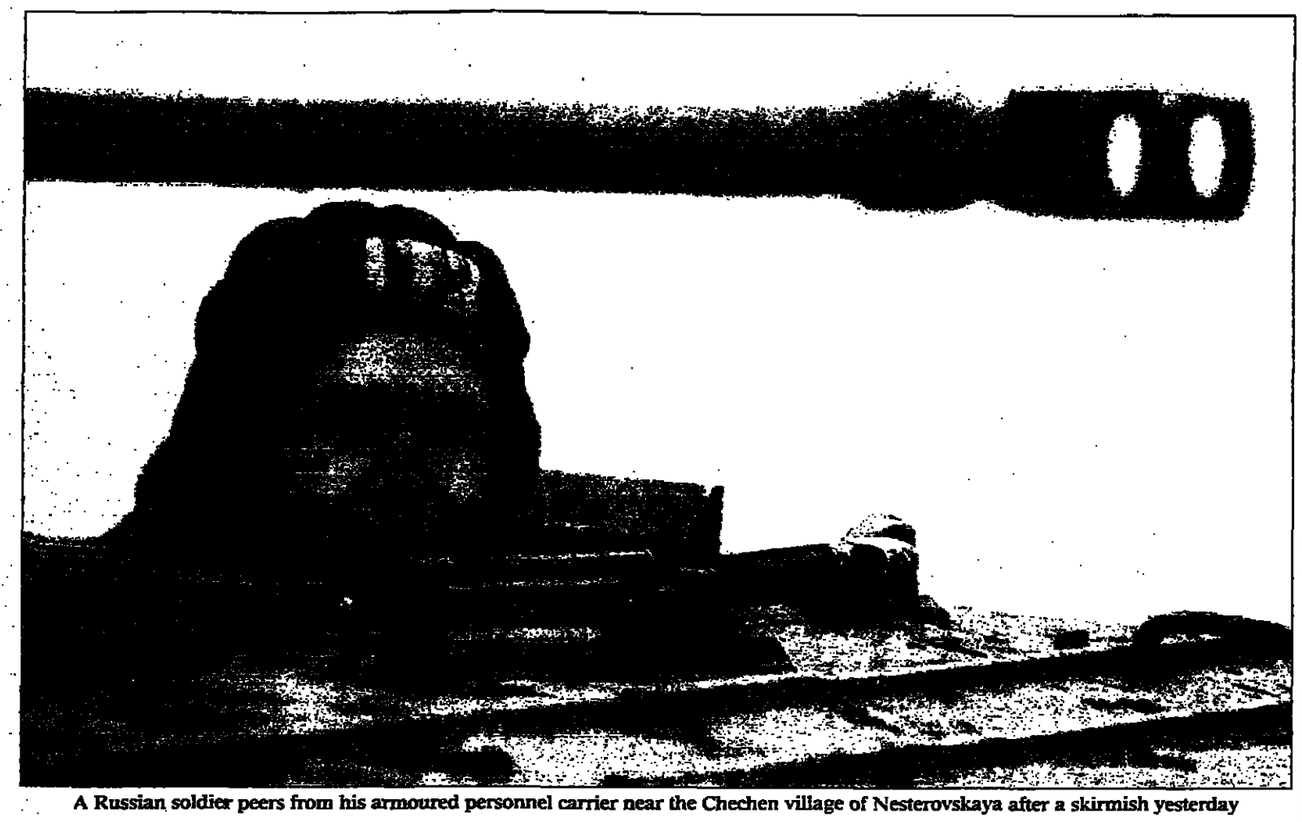
"Russia entered 1995 knee-deep in blood," said *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. "There is no power left, no truth and no President."

The mass circulation *Moskovsky Komsomolets*, which has campaigned against General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, since one of its reporters was murdered last year while investigating corruption in the military, was also strident in its criticism. "The leaders of the power ministries are continuing to live in a world of fairy tales and fables," it said.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, said yesterday that he had telephoned Mr Yeltsin to emphasise that Moscow must find a way to end the bloodshed.

In a call that German opposition parties had been demanding he make for days, Herr Kohl told Mr Yeltsin that Bonn deeply regretted the cost in civilian lives of Moscow's military campaign to crush the Chechen rebels. "I am deeply concerned by the extent of force used," he said in his first public comment on the conflict.

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, said that while Mr Yeltsin was right to try to suppress armed insurrection, the military assault had grown out of control. He reaffirmed American opposition to Chechen secession, but he said that the Clinton Administration was equally concerned about the heavy loss of life.



A Russian soldier peers from his armoured personnel carrier near the Chechen village of Nesterovskaya after a skirmish yesterday

MAN IN THE NEWS

Voice of Russian conscience cries for peace

By Richard Beeston

AMID the scenes of carnage and destruction in the besieged Chechen capital, Grozny, a lone voice has pricked the conscience of the Russian nation day after day in an effort to stop the bloodshed.

Elderly, bespectacled and out of place amid the fighters, Sergei Kovalyov is one of the few heroes of the three-week conflict in Chechenia, which has so far only produced a growing toll of victims. The Human Rights Commissioner and deputy in the Duma, the lower house of parliament, yesterday suspended his one-man peace mission to Grozny when he returned to Moscow and appealed directly to the Kremlin to halt its offensive. President Yeltsin has agreed to meet the tenacious former gulag inmate today.

Mr Kovalyov's outspoken campaign has made him an overnight hero not only with the media, but also with the growing anti-war lobby across the country, including servicemen fighting in Chechenia.



Sergei Kovalyov talking to reporters in Moscow yesterday

Unlike some other critics of the war, including politicians and generals who want to exploit the conflict for personal gain, Mr Kovalyov risked his life by staying in Grozny, where his accounts of human suffering have had a powerful effect in countering Moscow's propaganda gloss on the war. "As regards the lies, we have surpassed the Communists and even Goebbels," he said on his arrival yesterday in Moscow. "There is not a single word of truth in the official statements rubber-stamped by the Government."

Perhaps the most powerful example of Mr Kovalyov's work was revealed by an unnamed Russian bomber pilot who said that he and other aviators were racked with guilt by the suffering their attacks had had on the civilian population of Grozny.

"When I hear the desperation of that Duma deputy in Grozny, I begin to understand the horror of what is going on," the young air force officer said. "I am afraid to read the papers or watch television for fear that I will go mad."

Russian independent television has crowned Mr Kovalyov "the keeper of Russia's conscience", a title that was once held by the late Andrei Sakharov, the nuclear physicist and dissident who opposed the Afghanistan war.

The liberal press has also championed Mr Kovalyov's cause. The respected evening paper, *Izvestia*, named him "Man of the Year" for "bringing hope to hearts filled with pain and alarm". The liberal weekly *Moskovskiye Novosti* ran a picture of Mr Kovalyov beside one of President Yeltsin under the headline: "1995: Russia has a choice".

The authorities have been helpless to counter his accusations, since Mr Kovalyov can speak with the authority of someone who spent seven years in Soviet labour camps for editing an underground journal in the 1960s. He was allowed to return from exile in 1987 under the reforms introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev, the former President, and secured a seat in parliament.

Although initially a supporter of President Yeltsin, he has come increasingly into conflict with the more authoritarian Kremlin. This summer, the authorities attempted to suppress a report highly critical of the country's human rights record, showing abuses of power among the police and in prisons. Now President Yeltsin has sought to replace him as Russia's Human Rights Commissioner.

"It is not only the fate of Chechenia alone, but the fate of the whole of Russia that is being decided in Grozny," he said this week. "The attack on Chechenia is an attack on the weak shoots of Russian democracy. These events threaten a return of a totalitarian state."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Black Sea bodies washed ashore

Constanta: The bodies of ten sailors have been washed ashore on beaches at the seaside resort of *Eforie Sud* after two cargo vessels sank in a storm that hit the Romanian Black Sea port of Constanta, ten miles north of the resort. At least 35 other seamen are still missing.

A harbour official said that dozens of other vessels moored in Constanta were in danger because a dyke broken by the two vessels as they sank was letting seawater into the port. Deputy Captain Jorj Uciuleanu added that rescue workers were being hampered by continuing bad weather but had spotted several more bodies in the sea. *(AP)*

Iran threat

New York: US and Israeli officials claim Iran may be less than five years away from having an atomic bomb although it has not built a nuclear reactor that could be used for weapons. *(AP)*

Elephant plan

Harare: Zimbabwe will sell or cull 5,000 elephants from *Hwange, its main national* park, to ease environmental pressure. The park can accommodate 20,000 elephants but has 31,000. *(Reuter)*

Unity cost jobs

Nuremberg: Fewer than one in three East Germans kept their jobs after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, according to the Nuremberg Institute for Labour Market and Professional Research. *(AFP)*

Jordan change

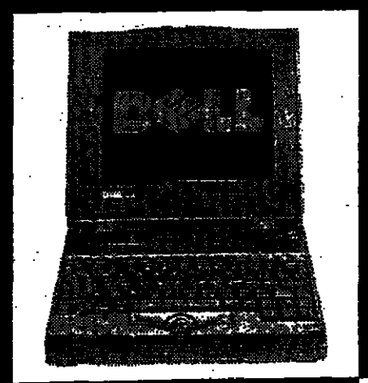
Amman: Jordan's Government resigned, allowing the return to power of Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, a friend of King Husain and former army chief who was twice previously Prime Minister. *(Reuter)*

Marathon trial

Delhi: Rameshwar Prasad, 70, has been jailed for six months after a trial that lasted 23 years. He was arrested in 1971 on charges of contravening India's import and export regulations. *(AFP)*

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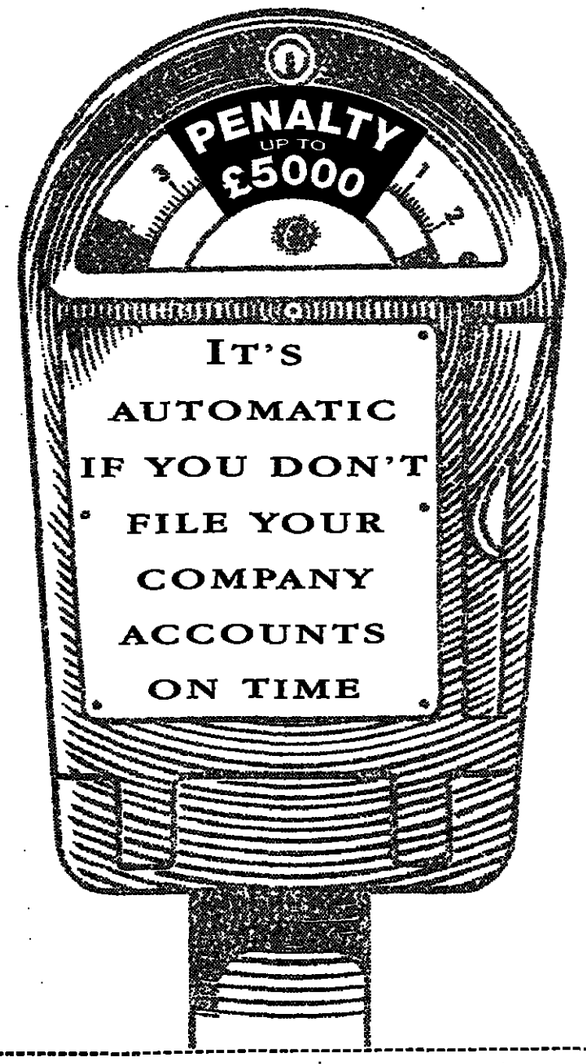
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McCurry: a distinguished record for backing losers

Clinton chooses affable Washington insider as mouthpiece

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON gave his detractors further cause for merriment yesterday by announcing that Mike McCurry, the State Department spokesman, is to replace Dee Dee Myers as White House press secretary.

The critics conceded that Mr McCurry is a fine and able spokesman, but what would he have to say? Two months after the elections in which the Republicans gained control of Congress, Mr Clinton is still desperately seeking a role and a message.

Mr McCurry's long and distinguished record of backing losers did not pass unnoticed. He was press secretary for the failed presidential campaigns of John Glenn in 1984, Bruce Babbitt in 1988 and Bob Kerrey in 1992.

Since then he has been the public voice of Warren Christopher who, as Secretary of State, has had a worse press than almost any Administration figure other than the President, who is still recovering from the unfortunate photographs of himself returning last Tuesday from a shooting trip in Arkansas clutching two dead ducks.

More seriously, Mr Clinton's critics also point out that the President, who arrived in Washington promising a fresh and diverse Administration, has replaced a female outsider with yet another pale male Washington insider. In spite of the mockery, however, Mr McCurry is well liked and highly respected by the Washington press corps, and should prove an asset to the beleaguered President. He is affable, articulate and highly quotable, and he has an authority that Ms Myers consistently lacked.

Also, he is close to Leon Panetta, the White House Chief of Staff, and will enjoy much better access to the President's inner circle.

Despite the immense pressures of his job, Mr McCurry rarely speaks out of turn, and apparently provoked only one diplomatic row while at the State Department. Commenting on a report that Iran's mullahs had slaughtered 20,000 pigeons to prevent gambling on pigeon races, he joked: "Fowl news from a foul regime." The official Iranian news agency angrily condemned him.

Mr McCurry, who is 40 and married and has two young children, also possesses what is likely to prove an indispensable quality for anyone working in the battered White House during the next two years — a sense of humour. He arrived at his last briefing before the festive season dressed as Santa Claus and explained that he had come to pick up the State Department's "travel advisories" — documents warning would-be travellers about world troublespots considered too dangerous for anyone, even Father Christmas, to visit.

UN chief calls for rapid-reaction peacekeeper force

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Secretary-General yesterday called for the creation of a UN rapid-reaction force to counter the organisation's increasing shortage of peacekeeping troops.

Boutros Boutros Ghali made the proposal in a wide-ranging reassessement of peacekeeping after the heavy setbacks suffered by forces in Bosnia, Somalia, Haiti and Rwanda.

UN officials dubbed the document the "son of Agenda for Peace", referring to the ambitious blueprint for peacekeeping issued after the Security Council summit meeting organised by Britain three years ago.

In the report yesterday, Dr Boutros Ghali advised world leaders not to ask the UN to fulfil "peace enforcement" duties, involving the use of force, for which it is ill-equipped. But he called for a small "strategic reserve" of troops to be set up, acknowledging that recently established arrangements for standby forces have proved ineffective.

"Such a force would be the Security Council's strategic reserve for deployment when there was an emergency need for peacekeeping troops."

He said the force should comprise of battalion-sized units, maintained at a high state of readiness in their own countries.

"This will be a complicated and expensive arrangement, but I believe that the time has come to undertake it," he wrote.

Dr Boutros Ghali's proposal for a UN-led rapid deployment force runs counter to the prevailing mood in most Western countries, where governments have become increasingly sceptical of sending troops on UN duty.

Madeleine Albright, the American Ambassador, gave a cool response. She said: "To the extent that the report seems to arrogate more power to the Secretary-General ... we think that that goes a little too far."

The new Republican majority in the American Congress is seeking stringent restrictions on the White House's ability to put American forces



Boutros Ghali: aiming to counter troop shortages

under UN command in reaction to the death of servicemen in the United States mission in Somalia.

Britain has always insisted that it must give specific approval for every deployment of its troops on the UN register of standby forces.

But Dr Boutros Ghali argued that the UN's ability to muster troops had "palpably declined" as the organisation's needs had grown. He said that none of the 19 governments which signed up to stand-by arrangements had been willing to send their troops to Rwanda when the Security Council decided to expand the force there last May.

Thus, there was a need for a UN rapid reaction force, although "the value of this arrangement would of course depend on how far the Security Council could be sure that the force would actually be available in an emergency".

Dr Boutros Ghali stated that the UN was unable to undertake "peace enforcement" operations.

"Neither the Security Council nor the Secretary-General at present has the capacity to deploy, direct, command and control operations for this purpose, except perhaps on a very limited scale," he wrote.

"I believe that it is desirable in the long term that the United Nations develop such a capacity, but it would be folly to attempt to do so at the present time when the organisation is resource-starved and hard-pressed to handle the less demanding peace-making and peacekeeping responsibilities entrusted to it."

In a clear reference to Bosnia and Somalia, he cautioned strongly against enforcement duties, such as protecting aid convoys or defending "safe areas", creeping into peacekeeping operations.

"Nothing is more dangerous for a peacekeeping operation than to ask it to use force when its existing composition, armament, logistic support and deployment deny it the capacity to do so," he wrote.

"It is necessary to resist the temptation to use military power to speed up [the resolution of conflicts]."

New boys of radical revolution told what to read

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN members of Congress, already swamped with documents, voluminous reports and paperwork, now have the added burden of Newt's Reading List.

Their Speaker, Newt Gingrich, was once a history professor, so it is perhaps not surprising that he sets homework. Each of his new charges has been recommended to read seven books that he thinks should guide their thinking and provide an intellectual underpinning for how the Republican majority should rule on Capitol Hill.

The list ranges from America's beginnings as a democracy to a view of where it is going. There are three volumes by management consultants who extol the merits of efficiency and logic. So far, Republican newcomers in Congress have been too busy settling in to tackle the list.

A quick survey suggested that on average they had read fewer than one of the books each. One member admitted: "If there's an exam, I won't do too well."

Leading the list is *The Federalist*, first published in 1788, a densely written set of essays that reflect the thinking of the Founding Fathers as they drew up the constitution. Two other works of history are *Democracy in America*, Alexis de Tocqueville's profound analysis written early in the nineteenth century, and *Washington: the Indispensable Man*, by James Flexner. Looking to the future, Mr Gingrich suggests *Creating a New Civilisation: the Politics of the Third Wave*, by two friends of his, Alvin and Heidi Toffler. The management books are *Leadership and the Computer* by Mary Boone, *The Effective Executive*, Peter Drucker's 1966 classic, and *Working Without a Net: How to Survive and Thrive in Today's High-Risk Business World* by Morris Shechtman.

Mr Gingrich is greatly taken by Mr Shechtman, a corporate guru whose firm helps organisations change their culture. His theories epitomise the Speaker's hopes for putting across a Republican social agenda of tax and spending cuts without appearing insensitive. In his inaugural speech as Speaker, Mr Gingrich quoted the Shechtman distinction between caring and care-taking. Care-taking means giving money to a down-and-out to buy alcohol; caring means offering him a job if he quits drinking.

Leading article, page 17



President Clinton and Newt Gingrich before their White House talks yesterday

Promises that put Gingrich in charge

THE Republicans' *Contract with America* promises House votes by April 14 on:

☐ **The Fiscal Responsibility Act** mandating balanced federal budgets from early next century.

☐ **The Taking Back Our Streets Act** providing stronger deterrents against crime, including longer prison sentences and a more enforceable death penalty.

☐ **The Personal Responsibility Act** curtailing welfare payments to teenage mothers, mothers on welfare who have additional children, and those unemployed for more than two years.

☐ **The Family Reinforcement Act** offering various measures to promote and protect the nuclear family.

☐ **The American Dream Restoration Act** offering new tax breaks for families.

☐ **The National Security Restoration Act** reversing defence cuts, reviving the "Star Wars" programme, and severely restricting UN use of American troops.

☐ **The Senior Citizens' Equity Act** enabling pensioners to continue working without being financially penalised.

☐ **The Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act** cutting the capital gains tax to encourage investment.

☐ **The Common Sense Legal Reform Act** limiting punitive damages and empowering judges to order losers to pay both sides' legal costs.

☐ **The Citizen Legislature Act** limiting senators to two six-year terms and congressmen to three or six two-year terms.

Vatican paper attacks Texas execution

From James Bone in new york

THE execution in Texas of a man who confessed to a murder his sister committed — a fact later accepted by the state — has provoked howls of protest from as far afield as the Vatican.

"Murder by Texas" proclaimed an editorial in yesterday's *New York Times* after Jesse Dewayne Jacobs was given a lethal injection in jail in Huntsville for a killing that even prosecutors conceded he did not commit.

"I have news for all of you — there is not going to be an execution. This is premeditated murder by the state of Texas," Jacobs declared before going to his death. "I hope in my death, I'm that little bitty snowball that starts to bury the death penalty."

Jacobs, 44, a lifelong criminal with a prior murder conviction, was convicted of killing the estranged wife of his sister's boyfriend in 1986 after testifying falsely that his sister paid him $500 to kill the woman. It later emerged that Jacobs's sister had actually pulled the trigger, and that Jacobs had no idea she even had a gun and was not present at the time of the killing.

Jacobs said he had originally taken the blame "for the love of a sister".

The same prosecutor who who put Jacobs on death row later secured the conviction of his sister, Bobbie Jean Hogan, saying that he had changed his mind and now believed that it was Hogan who killed the victim. Hogan was sentenced to a ten-year term for manslaughter.

But the Texas authorities were unmoved, saying that state law made no distinction between the perpetrator of murder and an accomplice and that both could be sentenced to death.

Because Jacobs had been involved in kidnapping the victim, he was considered as culpable as if he had actually pulled the trigger — as the jury thought when it brought in its verdict in just 35 minutes.

The US Supreme Court refused to review the case after the Texas attorney general argued that "the prosecution's subsequently stated belief that Hogan was the triggerperson is not evidence, newly discovered or otherwise."

The state's 86th execution this year stirred little reaction in Texas, which has a taste for what is called "frontier justice". Only a handful of demonstrators held a vigil outside the jail.

But Jacobs' death prompted angry denunciations elsewhere in America, and even a protest in the Vatican newspaper *Il Osservatore Romano*, which called the execution "monstrous and absurd".

The leading editorial in *USA Today* put it thus: "As in some bad Russian novel, innocence is beside the point if the law has been followed, if the paperwork is in order."



London ambassador Crowe tipped as new CIA chief

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

WILLIAM CROWE, the American Ambassador to Britain, is on a shortlist to be the next director of the CIA, senior Administration sources said yesterday.

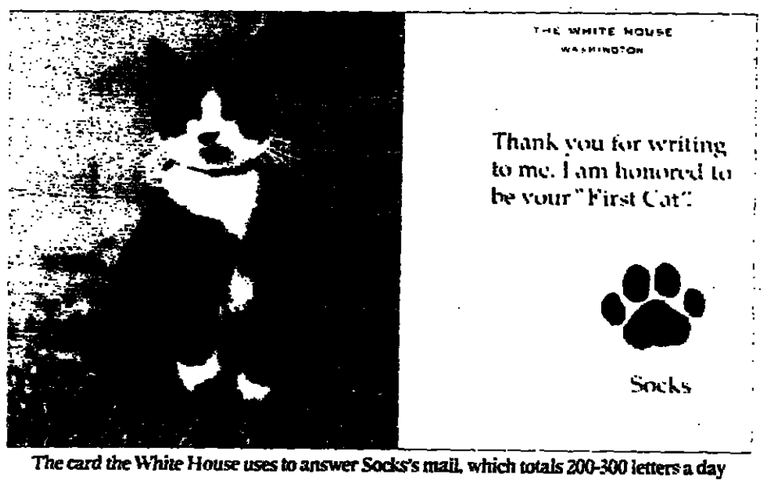
The favourite to replace James Woolsey, who resigned last week, is John Deutch, the Deputy Defence Secretary, officials disclosed. However, Mr Deutch has serious reservations about taking the job, and Admiral Crowe would probably be President Clinton's second choice.

Admiral Crowe is a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, former head of Mr Clinton's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and one of the very few senior military figures who backed Mr Clinton during the 1992 presidential campaign. The President thinks "very, very highly" of him and has developed a great respect for his judgment, the sources said. But giving Admiral Crowe the job would have the added advantage of creating a vacancy at the Court of St James that Mr Clinton could use to reward Tom Foley, the former Democratic House Speaker.

The officials said the drawback was that Admiral Crowe was doing a good job in London at a time when the Anglo-American relationship was going through a "rough patch" because of Bosnia. It is also unclear whether Admiral Crowe, 70, would accept the CIA job. He is believed to have turned it down after Mr Clinton's election in 1992. The CIA is in considerable turmoil and a presidential commission is about to begin a comprehensive post-Cold War review of the US intelligence community that inevitably will limit the new director's action.

But administration officials were confident that the President would be able to persuade Admiral Crowe to take the job. Mr Clinton has reportedly sounded out Mr Deutch about the CIA job, but Mr Deutch was far from enthusiastic. He regards the CIA directorship as something of a poisoned chalice, and would demand a central role in the formulation of policy as a condition of acceptance. Mr Clinton only rarely met Mr Woolsey and relied little on his briefings.

Suitable candidates are few. Apart from Mr Deutch and Admiral Crowe, the only other candidates under consideration are the former New Hampshire senator, Warren Rudman, who is vice-chairman of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, and David McCurdy, the newly defeated Oklahoma congressman who once chaired the House Intelligence Committee. Mr McCurdy did his chances no good by blaming the Democrats' rout in last November's congressional elections on Mr Clinton's betrayal of his "New Democrat" principles.



The card the White House uses to answer Socks's mail, which totals 200-300 letters a day

Claws out for top cat's kitty

BY IAN BRODIE

THE latest target of cost-cutting Republicans is Socks, President Clinton's family cat.

A demand to know how many tax dollars in the trillion-dollar US budget are "wasted" on answering mail for Socks was sent to Mr Clinton yesterday by Dan Burton, a Republican member of the new Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. Why, he grilled the President, are taxpayers being asked to pay for postage, stationery and envelopes for your "feline's fan club"? Mr Burton denounced the answering of Socks's fan mail as "the type of waste the American public wants to get rid of".

Hardly. The Socks mail-bag — 200-300 letters a day — is done by volunteers at a Washington retirement home for former members of the US armed forces. There, in "Socks Corner", sits former Chief Petty Officer Allan "Tugboat" Gordon, self-styled Secretary to Socks. "I spent most of my life in submarines, but now I work for a cat," he said, proudly displaying scrapbooks of the best of Socks's mail.

Back Pain-The Remedies

For many thousands of us back problems cause pain and misery, often 24 hours a day. Now, after many years of specialist research a guide has been written that should make back pain no more than a distant memory.

The guide is the most up to date work available, and covers every aspect of back pain - from common causes such as bad posture and lifting, to proven cures such as physiotherapy and massage. Also, little known treatments like acupuncture, contrast bathing, Chinese massage and herbal remedies are explained. In easy to understand language.

The guide includes

- Causes - and how to avoid them
- The latest treatments - An A to Z of pain relief
- Alternative medicines - from acupuncture to yoga.... It really works!
- Plus - All the latest information on the soothing benefits of back massage and muscle relaxants

The guide contains the latest medical opinions from across the world. Covering the best treatments for all types of back problems. From pregnancy pains to sports injuries: if you have a back problem then this guide has the cure. Putting up with back pain in the Nineties is really quite needless. So send today for a more comfortable tomorrow.To order, send your name, address, the book title and your payment (cheque or Visa, Access) for £9.25 which includes postage to Chart-search Ltd, Dept A, 8 The Badminton Centre, Station Road, Yate, Bristol BS17 5HT.

You may return the book at any time if not completely satisfied.

O.J. Simpson defence team drops tactical bombshell on DNA evidence

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

DEFENCE lawyers have dropped a tactical bombshell into the O.J. Simpson murder trial, announcing they will not contest the admissibility of DNA evidence.

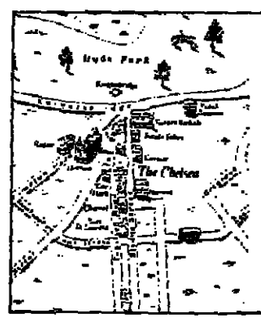
The announcement will save Simpson hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees by eliminating the need for a lengthy DNA hearing. It has also suddenly brought the trial's long awaited opening arguments up to six weeks closer.

Preliminary tests on blood found at the scene of the murders of Simpson's ex-wife and a friend last year have linked Simpson to the crime. In the absence of witnesses or a murder weapon, however, prosecutors need a conclusive blood match to pin the killings on Simpson, who has pleaded not guilty.

Simpson's high-powered and high-priced defence team is now expected to try to pick holes in the reliability of DNA evidence in front of the jury, instead of fighting to have it excluded altogether by the judge. Despite the strong scientific pedigree of DNA testing, pioneered in 1984, it has a mixed record of acceptance by Californian juries notoriously susceptible to the wiles of well-briefed defence lawyers and their expert witnesses.

Scientists claim that the chances of two people other than identical twins having the same DNA profile ranges from one in 50,000 to one in five million. Simpson's lawyers are nonetheless expected to dazzle the jury with long technical critiques of DNA testing. Unlike the prosecution, they do not have to prove anything, but merely show grounds for reasonable doubt.

Robert Shapiro, the lead defence lawyer, sent reporters covering the case parcels of "DNA" eau de toilette, body shampoo and aftershave over a Christmas with a note saying: "Looking forward to seeing you during the trial."



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Banda and top aide held over murder of ministers

FROM FELIX MPONDA IN BLANTYRE

HUNDREDS of people poured on to the streets of Malawi's main cities yesterday to celebrate the arrest of Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the former President, and John Tembo, his top aide and strongman, in connection with the murder of four ministers in May 1983.

Dr Banda and Mr Tembo have been implicated as the key figures in the killings. The victims, said at the time to have died in a car crash, were allegedly beaten to death with clubs and hammers and their bodies placed in a wrecked vehicle.

Brown Mpinganjira, the Information Minister, said in Blantyre yesterday that Mr Tembo had been arrested on Wednesday after the release of an inquest report alleging that the former Government had ordered the murder of the ministers. The report, by a commission of inquiry, alleged that Dr Banda and Mr Tembo had ordered the killing of the four men for political reasons. Mr Tembo, who is being held in Chichiri prison, appeared briefly in court yesterday. Dr Banda, who is in his nineties and in poor health, has been placed under house arrest. Mr Mpinganjira alleged that the murders of Dick Matenje, Twaibu Sangala, Aaron Gadama and David Chiwanga were carried out on instructions from Dr Banda, who "perceived the four gentlemen were aspiring to his post".

He added that Mr Tembo had ordered the killing of Matenje, then secretary-general of the ruling Malawi Congress Party, who had been groomed to take over the presidency while Dr Banda went on a long holiday abroad. "Tembo opposed the appointment of Matenje as caretaker President and issued instructions that he be killed," the minister said.

Witnesses said demonstrations in Blantyre, the commercial capital, turned ugly when the protesters set fire to a building belonging to the Malawi Congress Party, of which Dr Banda is still life president. The marchers also burnt down the party's sub-office in Ndirande, Blantyre's largest township, and stole everything they could find, including iron roofing sheets.

In Lilongwe, the capital, demonstrations were peaceful and appeared non-partisan. "We are happy that Banda and Tembo have finally been cornered. They were responsible for the deaths of many innocent Malawians," said one of the protesters.

Many other people also said they were happy that the law seemed finally to have caught up with Mr Tembo, the most powerful politician during Dr Banda's dictatorial reign. Bakili Muluzi assumed the national presidency after defeating Dr Banda last May in Malawi's first democratic elections.

Others arrested after publication of the report include McWilliam Lunguzi, a former police inspector-general. He allegedly destroyed documents and disposed of the car in which the bodies were found. MacDonald Kalemba, a retired police commissioner, and a senior officer, named simply as Likaomba, who are believed to have masterminded the killings, have also been held. They will not be granted bail because they face murder charges, but will be formally charged within 48 hours.

Mr Mpinganjira said that Dr Banda would serve his house arrest at his modest Mudi residence in Blantyre, adding: "President Muluzi is most unwilling to place him in prison."

Cassim Chilumpha, the Defence Minister, said the High Court was now handling the case, and the Government would respect the human rights of the detainees, who will be entitled to legal representation. He added: "We all know Banda is sick, and he will be entitled to a doctor." *(AFP)*



Dr Banda, whose arrest caused jubilation across Malawi

Disgrace beckons for fallen dictator

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MALAWI'S former President-for-life, Hastings Kamuzu Banda, and John Tembo, his former strongarm man, face joint disgrace just as they once shared the exercise of power and fear.

Dr Banda was one of the patriarch dictators of independent Africa. On at least one occasion he threatened to feed opponents to the crocodiles.

In the final years before his downfall, however, he allowed authority to pass increasingly to Mr Tembo. "In fact, John Tembo and his niece, Cecilia Kadzamira, ruled the country on behalf of Banda. No important decision could be made without them knowing," one political analyst said.

Miss Kadzamira was Dr Banda's nurse who became his Official Hostess, and has lived with him at his Blantyre residence since his electoral defeat by President Muluzi last May. Diplomatic sources have questioned whether Dr Banda, believed to be in his mid-90s, would face trial over the deaths of four ministers in 1983. He underwent brain surgery in Johannesburg in 1993 and is said to be senile.

Officially, Dr Banda's date of birth is May 18, 1906, but he is widely believed to have been born before the turn of the century in a village near the central town of Kasungu. A classical scholar, he often told people in one of the world's poorest nations that they had not been properly educated unless they spoke Latin and Greek.

He worked in South African gold mines and as a medical orderly in Southern Rhodesia before undergoing medical training in America and Scotland. He worked as a doctor in Britain before returning to Malawi in 1958. Dr Banda was an elder in the Church of Scotland, but it disowned him in 1992 over his human rights record.

He was Prime Minister when Malawi gained its independence from Britain in 1964 and he quickly outlawed all opposition parties. He became President in 1966 and proclaimed himself President-for-life in 1971.

Chinese exiles lose right to return

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

ALL the leaders of China's exiled democratic movement will be arrested or banned from the country if they attempt to return, according to a secret blacklist.

The list, titled "49 overseas members of reactionary organisations currently subject to major control", includes exiled student pro-democracy activists, such as Chai Ling and Wuer Kaixi.

Also listed are prominent intellectuals, including the astrophysicist Fang Lizhi, who after the 1989 massacre in Tiananmen Square spent a year sheltering in the US Embassy in Peking before leaving for America.

Liu Qing, who was released from prison last year and permitted to travel to America to persuade President Clinton that China was improving its human rights record, is also on the list.

The list was obtained and released yesterday by Human Rights Watch/Asia and Human Rights in Asia, two New York-based organisations specialising in investigations of Chinese political prisoners.

According to their report, "the overwhelming majority of those on the list have consistently advocated the use of peaceful means for achieving greater democracy and human rights in China".

The report says that there is no Chinese law "barring Chinese citizens from re-entering the country". Robin Munro, a Human Rights Watch expert on Chinese political prisoners, said in Hong Kong yesterday: "None of these people have committed any crime recognised in international law."

Boesak agrees to delay UN post

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

AFTER being summoned by Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's Deputy President, and Alfred Nzo, the Foreign Minister, Allan Boesak yesterday agreed not to take up his post as Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva until allegations of financial misconduct had been cleared up.

Dr Boesak, the former head of the World Alliance of Reform Churches and former leader of the African National Congress in Western Cape, was due to take up his post next week. However allegations of financial impropriety were raised, concerning the use of church funds from Denmark that were given to Dr Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice.

Dr Boesak formally denied any fraudulent activity, but accepted "full moral responsibility for the affairs of the foundation".

A report by DanChurchAid auditors is under way, and Kader Asmal, Minister for Water Affairs, is compiling a report for President Mandela.



Boesak: accepts "full moral responsibility"

Indian MPs face two-child limit

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Indian parliament is being asked to approve legislation under which MPs would be restricted to two children. It might not stall the day when the population reaches a billion, but would send a signal of restraint to the rural masses.

That, anyway, is the logic behind a Bill to be debated by both houses of parliament. The measure would also apply to the thousands of elected members of state legislatures.

The proposed legislation, drawn up by the parliamentary standing committee for the Human Resources Ministry, is a rare political acknowledgement of the population crisis. India has a net annual gain of 17 million people, about the population of Australia, and there is no official family planning programme.

The World Bank estimates that India's population, now 950 million, will reach 1.4 billion people by 2030. It currently has 16 per cent of the world's people and is closing fast on China.

The Bill has been condemned by Communist MPs on the ground that it would apply equally to men and women. Since women tend to have as many children as their husbands decree, this provision is deemed discriminatory. The legislation would involve a constitutional amendment, requiring a two-thirds majority in both houses — a perhaps impossible hurdle.

The provisions would take effect a year after enactment and existing MPs would be exempt. Nobody with more than two children would be allowed to run for election, and MPs or state legislators who added a third child to their families would be disqualified. *The Times of India* reported that Punjab and Haryana already operate a two-children rule for their state assembly legislators and that the provisions had been extended to anybody seeking election to local bodies and councils.

The population rise is undermining economic progress and helping to keep a third of the nation in poverty. Family planning still suffers from the stigma of enforced sterilisation during the 19-month state of emergency in the mid-1970s, when old men were hauled off buses and given vasectomies.

International aid groups appear to achieve better results in curbing family sizes than the Government. The British Maries Stopes family planning organisation, for example, supplies contraceptive devices to women in village projects.



Life without much money can be bliss, provided you have a thriving, well-settled, mutually supportive community and no enemies

Poverty: not all it's cracked up to be



LIBBY PURVES

The Institute of British Geographers provides us with a fine meditation for Twelfth Night. On the theme of regional poverty, two Scottish academics reported that in the isle of Harris and the remoter parts of the mainland, there are poor people who do not feel poor. A family income of under £150, was outweighed by "community spirit, the rural lifestyle, and safety for children". Their subjects, technically in poverty, were content with their lives.

Listen: a howl of pain goes up from thousands who earn ten times that. Imagine reading the happy crofters' comments on a packed commuter train, crawling through concrete wildernesses where human beings sleep in cardboard and shaven-headed children huddle their grey faces into crisp-bags full of glue! Imagine the chic homes where that piece of newsprint will have shared a breakfast-table with credit-card bills, threatening letters from school bursars and announcements of yet more roadworks outside the door! Hear the howling!

The trouble is that anyone who knows remote regions of the UK has to admit that the researchers are right. There are people who genuinely wouldn't change places with the urban or suburban rich. We may comfort ourselves with toys and malt whisky and opera seats, but they have the real thing: life. If you can see heaven from your doorstep, you do not need to waste money on escaping your lot. If you have an old bike and a peat-stack to maintain, you do not need a gym subscription. If the constabulary are scarce enough, you can get round the whisky problem quite neatly, too.

Above all, if your community is a real one, providing its own amusements from gossip to ceilidhs, you do not dart all over the place for a complex social life with scattered relatives and semi-detached friends. And — a final twist of the knife — if you live in Scotland you need not even worry about education, because Westminster has not had the chance to demoralise it. Go on, howl!

Even in the south you can be very happy from day to day on little money. A great friend of ours, Romany-born, lives in a trailer warmed by a wood stove, whittling wonderful things to sell at fairs and setting his lurchers on free rabbits. He observed tranquilly over Christmas that it always takes him aback when people talk of financial crises because nobody would give him credit anyway, so he can't get into any trouble too deep to whittle his way out of. He is not alone: wandering round the Boat Show yesterday, suffering the usual delusion that if I buy another dinghy I will somehow magically get more time to sail it, I remembered a couple in a rotting cottage on the North Norfolk Broads. They live on £70 a week and, every fine day, sail their graceful 1935 clinker dinghy across the lovely water to the village shop. They got the dinghy free from a holiday commuter with no time to look after it.

Romantic? A silly winter's tale? Indeed. Here is why. These people are lucky, but they are not imitable. Communities do not grow overnight. The happiness of the crofters is as much an inheritance as any share portfolio. It is also more fragile: if the crofters were happy, it was because nobody had interfered with them. The main drawback in being poor-but-happy is that, being poor, you have no power to fight the corrosive force of other people's money. The weavers of Harris have already suffered from international caprice in the form of a deep recession in the tweed industry; recently, their lives have been worse threatened by a giant quarry.

Other humble communities have been wrecked by everything from giant reservoirs to firing ranges. Suffolk beach fishermen could not fight off Sizewell B (even though sometimes, they were denied planning permission for new fishing huts on the beach while just a few feet away a concrete horror grew unchecked).

Mind you, even the vocal, affluent middle-classes couldn't beat that one; but when lesser horrors threaten — road plans, poison factories, the closure of schools — they find that discretionary income works wonders. You can lobby, you can pay planning advisers, you can buy up the shop, school or pub as a co-op. With money you can fight. If you lose, you can move.

Genuinely poor communities can have their happiness shattered without being able to raise a finger. All over the world it happens: the holiday cottages of the rich make young locals homeless; tourism, deforestation, mining, all kill contented tribes and villages too poor to resist. One of the reasons Scotland looks after her crofters now is in memory of their 18th-century forbears. The small farmers cleared away to the New World were not discontented. It was just that someone else — with more money — wanted the land.

So go on, back to work: lay up treasure on earth. You know it makes sense.

A man in search of flying objects

Joanna Pitman meets Timothy Good, who believes in aliens and makes a living trying to find one

"I'm trying not to look like a nutcase." Instead Timothy Good looks serious as the camera swoops in to hover menacingly a few inches from his chin, lens glinting in the corner of his vision like one of the flying saucers he spends his life pursuing.

Mr Good is one of our leading authorities on unidentified flying objects, an enthusiast turned professional, a writer of serious books, a lecturer and film consultant, a rather selfconscious specialist resolutely determined not to be identified with the anorak and Thermos-flask brigade. "Don't call me a ufologist. I'm a researcher," he says.

It is difficult to form a clear judgment on the nutcase notion on meeting this manifestly intelligent, articulate, well-read fellow who devotes half of his life to aliens and UFOs.

The case against him is that he is in a business in which nutters abound. As he readily admits, the minute he mentions his interest in UFOs, most people titter and turn smartly away. But remarkably large numbers, it appears, have a gullibility threshold low enough to accept tales of their sister's hairdresser's cousin's friend, who thinks she might have seen something one night.

Mr Good finds himself in the unfortunate position of being ridiculed by the former type and pestered by the latter. "There are thousands and thousands of sightings being reported all over the world all the time. In general, I find that roughly 90 per cent of these are explicable — they could be lasers, strobe lights or stars, and people mistake them because they are simply not familiar with the night skies."

It is the remaining 10 per cent of sightings which cannot be ruled out by such explanations that fascinate him — and the fascination outweighs the fear of ridicule. "People laugh, but I feel that I'm in good company because behind the scenes there is so much proven interest in UFOs in the Intelligence community."

This is the subject on which Mr Good is best. In his bestselling book *Above Top Secret*, which is to be reissued in revised form this summer, Mr Good examines declassified Intelligence papers from American, British and Russian sources which prove that the UFO enigma has occupied — and baffled — some of the keenest minds in government circles since the 1940s.

He has to be very sceptical himself, he says. "But given the body of evidence I have collected" — he sweeps an arm around a flat crammed with files labelled KGB and CIA — "I believe that UFOs are considered in official circles to be a serious security threat. I'm not saying we're being invaded, but I believe that UFOs have caused communications problems in military and civilian traffic, and have affected weapons systems."

He speaks in calm and measured tones, and has the cool appraisal of an academic. The credibility problem, however, remains. "We know that the Americans under Truman had a top-secret committee that was classified at a higher level than that covering the hydrogen bomb. I'm convinced that the Americans retrieved an alien vehicle and bodies in New Mexico in the 1940s.

"There have been hundreds of reported encounters with alleged aliens. I've met so many people who have everything to lose, who have convinced me of their alien encounters and their journeys inside spacecraft."

This is the point at which I start to lose the struggle to keep an open mind. Mr Good has devoted half of his professional life to researching and monitoring the possible existence of flying saucers and, as alien watchers go, his credentials are not bad. Since *Above Top Secret* he has written two more bestsellers, has lectured on the subject all over the world and in this country at the Oxford and Cambridge Union Societies, IBM, Shell, and the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, and has worked on the television documentary *UFO*, to be screened on ITV next Tuesday.

Mr Good himself has "had a sighting" four times, but only two of these continue to puzzle him. The most recent was in December 1980, when he was walking home and saw something in the dusk sky.

"I normally carry a cine camera and a normal camera everywhere I go, just in case, but this time I had just popped out to the shops so I didn't have them. I sprinted home, but by the time I got there it had disappeared. I was absolutely livid. I have a telescopic camera permanently ready so I would have got a photo if I'd got back in time." The clenched jaw muscles bulge and those steady eyes flash momentarily — this lost opportunity evidently still rankles. "It's eternally frustrating missing sightings myself, and only ever getting second-hand accounts of alien encounters."

Mr Good sustains a second career as a violinist, until recently with the London Symphony Orchestra, and now engaged in session work. A few years ago he dragged his musical girlfriend (cynical but long-suffering on UFOs) to the desert in Nevada to stake out "Area 51", the US air base alleged to house alien craft and bodies, and which officially does not exist.

"We camped out by the perimeter fence for hours, but sadly we saw nothing." Hollywood's interest in aliens has increased awareness (and we can expect much more since the KGB has just begun selling off UFO files to film directors). But it is not, in Mr Good's opinion, very constructive.

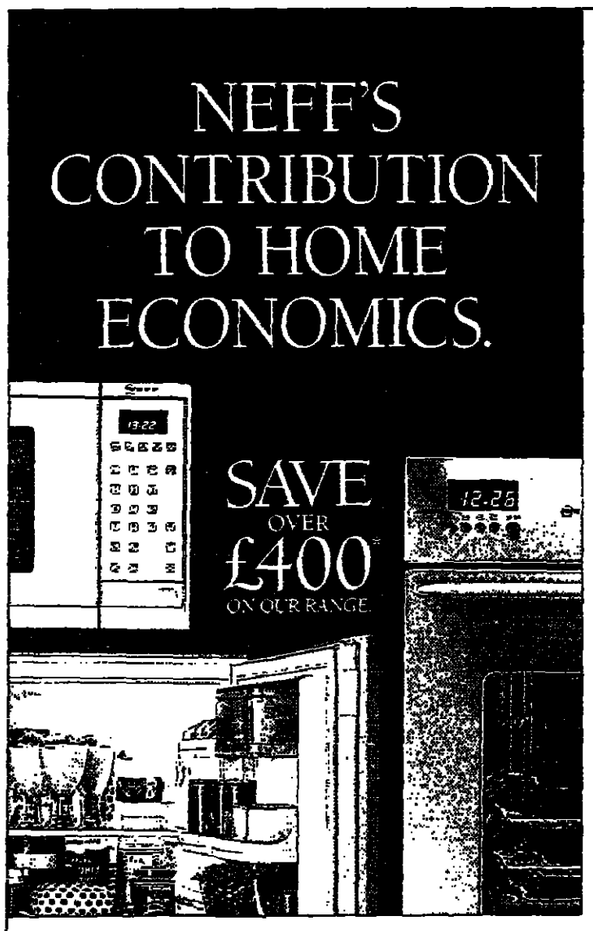
"If a spacecraft were to land in Hyde Park, and extra-terrestrial beings emerged and were interviewed on *News At Ten*, the public would probably dismiss it as a publicity stunt for a new Spielberg film."

● Network First: UFO *is on ITV on January 10 at 10.40pm*

ROBIN MAYES



Timothy Good: "People laugh, but I'm in good company because of the Intelligence community's interest in UFOs"



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NEFF

The power of public grief

Magnus Linklater finds in the funeral for a local woman moving testimony to the power of a community

JUST before Christmas, the people of three small villages in Perthshire suffered a numbing tragedy. A taxi, driven by a local woman who was delivering Christmas presents, collided head-on with a Mini Minor containing five teenagers — three girls and two boys. The boy driving the Mini and one of the girls died instantly. The woman taxi-driver was also killed. The others were injured.

An accident which might have been just another statistic in a big city or on a motorway devastated this close-knit rural community. The boys and girls were from the villages of Dunkeld, Caputh and Murthly on the River Tay. These are places where there are few outsiders, where the river and the surrounding farms provide much of the employment, and where everyone is either related to or knows everyone else.

The woman, Chrissie Ross, lived in Dunkeld, barely six miles upstream, with a population of fewer than 1,000. Chrissie knew virtually everyone there, partly because of her duties as the local taxi-driver and partly because she was always ready to help, whether ferrying people from the old folks' home, running errands for the sick, or lending a hand with the Sunday school. She was also an elder of the kirk.

Her family connections were almost as extensive as her network of friends. Her father, Alistair, had been a gamekeeper in the hills above Dunkeld for more than 50 years, and Chrissie had been brought up there too, one of four children. When she married Wattie Ross, a Dunkeld man, they continued the tradition of large families by producing six children. At the time of her death Chrissie was a grandmother.

HER funeral took place on the day before Hogmanay in the little Dunkeld church, an 18th-century Presbyterian kirk beside the river. There had been heavy rain over the previous few days, and the water had risen up to the banks, sweeping past in dark eddies beneath the graveyard.

It soon became clear that this was no ordinary funeral. The service had been set for 12 noon, but shortly after 11 people started arriving, packing into the pews which surround the communion table on the ground floor, and then crowding upstairs into the gallery where the organ is.

Those who arrived later stood in the aisles, and when the minister and the family walked in, there were queues at the doors. A church built to accommodate 500 souls was now crammed with nearly 1,000. No one could remember seeing it so full.

The service was without pretension. The Presbyterian church does not hold with elaborate ceremony, and there was no need for it anyway. We sang the 23rd psalm and "Abide With Me". The minister spoke of suffering and redemption, and one of the elders read a brief tribute to Chrissie and her good works. It was almost unbearably moving, and there were few who were not in tears as we moved out to the graveyard.

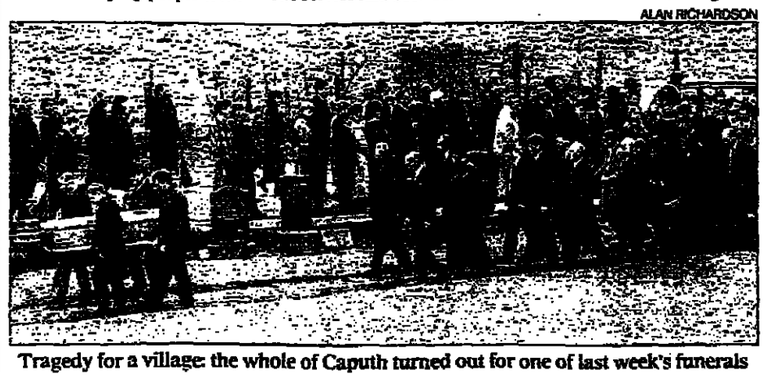
The sky cleared as the male members of the family lowered her coffin into the grave. The faces of those around the grave, drawn with grief, were the faces of country folk. There was something changeless about them, about the occasion itself, about the familiarity with suffering and death.

Standing in that cemetery was virtually the entire adult population of the village and its surrounding area. They were not there for show or because they were representing anything other than themselves. This was the very essence of a community. It was, in the traditional Scottish phrase, "a good turn-out".

Much is said about the breakdown of society, about the lack of community, and the need to rebuild it. Margaret Thatcher famously said it does not exist; John Major has told us he would like to recapture its essence; in his latest book, *John Mortimer* sees it in England's cathedrals and village churches and talks of the important part they play, despite his agnosticism.

But Chrissie Ross's funeral service spoke of something deeper than that, something which has weathered the storms that have ravaged modern society, and reveals that it still has powerful roots. It was a bleak occasion on which to see out the old year. But there can have been very few on that day who did not leave it feeling sustained.

ALAN RICHARDSON



Tragedy for a village: the whole of Caputh turned out for one of last week's funerals

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He never gives formal interviews, but I had a revealing conversation with Saatchi without Saatchi . . .

'Why aren't you wearing lipstick?'


JEREMY YOUNG

Maurice Saatchi told his first employers he couldn't possibly afford to come for £1,000 a year as he had a frightfully expensive car (a Corvette); he would need at least £2,000



VALERIE GROVE

This is not an interview *with Maurice* Saatchi. The brothers' mysterious reticence is one element in the Saatchi mythology that holds true. After many evenings in Maurice's company, I am familiar with his response to questions: "I don't do answers," he will say. He will field and parry, dodge and mock, returning every question with another question. I often used to wonder how anyone managed to do business with him. The evening would end with his analysis of my life (that I was totally on the wrong track) and his brisk solutions for my future. When I complained to his wife, Josephine Hart, about it she said he was always like that.

This week, however, even Maurice Saatchi had to give an answer. The deadline arrived when he had to decide whether to accept the offer by the Chicago fund manager, David Herro, to stay on in a spurious capacity in the company to which he had devoted all his working life, or to cut loose. Saatchi was at his house in Sussex, a red-brick folly filled with sunlight. He should have been in Phuket for new year, but instead he sat thinking by his log fire and walked around his lake. On Monday he composed his most poignant piece of copy, replete with irony: "Please inform Mr Herro that I do not accept his offer. It was kind of him to consider me for the position."

Walking away from Saatchi & Saatchi has been the hardest thing he has ever done. However, it is oddly consoling to be obituarised while you are still alive and very much kicking, as well as hopelessly boyish at 48-and-a-half, with the voice and manner of the sixth former at Tollington Grammar in Muswell Hill that he once was. And what was the point in staying? The company has been taken over.

The accepted view of the Saatchi brothers is that Charles was the inspirational adman, Maurice the business brain. In fact all the famous Saatchi campaigns — of which the pregnant man, conceived by Jeremy Sinclair, is the most audacious and famous — were the result of single-minded corporate energy, and Maurice remains even today an enthusiast for creative strategies. One night at a dinner in the Bodleian Library at Oxford he asked me what I thought of Oil of Ulay, a product Procter & Gamble had just acquired. An old ladies' night cream? Whereupon he announced with glee that they had signed up Jennifer Capriati and were going for the youth market. Anything was possible.

"What motivates politicians?" was his kind of question. At one lunch in his office I and others were grilled about what we thought should be the Tories' best strategies for winning the next election (this was 1989). Never mind that at least two of those present were hoping for a Labour victory. The man widely credited with first summarising the emotional meaning of Thatcherism listened intently. But if one asked him too pertinent a question in return he would respond with a diversion: "Why aren't you wearing lipstick? Every woman should wear lipstick."

Of the four Saatchi sons brought up in Highgate, Maurice was the one with the most analytical mind. At LSE he won a gold medal for his First in sociology. But instead of carrying on to do research he told his professor he planned to join his brother in starting an advertising agency.

On his first day at Michael Heseltine's Haymarket Press — where Josephine Hart was his boss, as publisher of business magazines — he had the nerve to tell them he couldn't possibly afford to come for £1,000 a year, the normal graduate starting salary, as he had a frightfully expensive car (an American Corvette); he would need at least £2,000. The chutzpah was typical. Maurice's patter — "Hello, I'm Maurice Saatchi and we're a new advertising agency . . . I think it would be worth your while to see a presentation we have prepared for you" — was delivered 25 times a day for a year: a decade later he was applying the same technique to acquisitions, cold-calling rival advertising agencies to say: "If you ever want to sell, we're interested."

Part of the Saatchi mystery has been compounded by the illuminatingly interesting Saatchi wives. It would be hard to pinpoint two places on the globe more disparate than Maurice's and Josephine's respective birthplaces — Baghdad, and the grey little town of Mullingar (population 7,000) in Ireland. "It's a very good combination, the Irish woman and the Jew," as Josephine Hart says.

Only when Maurice and Josephine divorced their first spouses and married did she find herself able to carve a career more appropriate to her passionate and emotional Irish nature. Her long and wild greying hair was always tumbling out of its combs, especially when she talked of Yeats, or managed to get Sir Stephen Spender to read a poem by Auden at one of her poetry evenings in West End theatres, which everyone thought commercial madness but were quite electric.

When she wrote her first novel *Damage* (filmed by Louis Malle), Josephine was transformed: she shed pounds, gained a short, shining dark hairstyle, and always dressed from head to foot in chic, sharp black. Maurice had propelled her out into a different world by making her confront what she really wanted to do in life. "M", as she calls him, was her salvation.

Their houses in Mayfair and in Sussex are organised with consummate artistry. Nothing gets in the way of the style. Anyone trying to find a telephone in the Mayfair house is led through room after room of marbled floors and pillars: the offending machine is hidden from view inside an armoire. Their young son Edward has inherited his father's boyhood golden curls and his diversionary way of dealing with questions: when asked what his father did, he would reply that Mr Saatchi made lollipop sticks.

The speculation now suggests that Maurice will be starting up a new lolly stick company, but he knows better than anyone how far the climate has changed, thanks to his own predatory stampede through existing agencies in the 1980s. He had to do it, he believes, because he could see a giant door was going to close, after which it would become extremely difficult to conceive of building a new company from scratch.

Buying up Ted Bates was the brothers' biggest and most agonising deal: it made them the world number one, but the moment was catastrophic. After 15 years during which they had seen their share value rise by 10,700 per cent, success did rather go to their heads. With what Maurice has called exquisite mistiming, they launched their great acquisition drive just six months ahead of the worst recession the advertising world has ever known. But such pain brings wisdom. Maurice likes to quote from the opening of *The Go Between*: "The past is another country. They do things differently there." He made mistakes, and he would not do the same thing again.

What Herro and company may not be in the mood to understand is Saatchi's view that advertising is as much a romance as a business. An advertising company's assets are its clients, who have all the power and pay the bills, and its staff, who are as excited by brilliant creative work as dramatists are about theatre, or painters about pictures. For Mr Herro to go to war with both groups is a strikingly original way of operating.

So the letters in support of Saatchi that have come from Forrest E. Mars, and from Colin Marshall of British Airways, are not just a friendly gesture to Maurice himself, but a warning statement. Mars is already known to be talking to other agencies. New blood invited to become non-executive directors of the Saatchi board — including Raymond Seitz, the erstwhile US ambassador, and the chief executive of Lazard Freres — have now declined the offer. Saatchi has watched the shares fall, since December, from 156p to 138p, and the letters, offers and proposals to Maurice himself are pouring in.

He still believes advertising is a uniquely thrilling and meritocratic world for any young person — meeting captains of global industry, dabbling in detergents one day, and cars or airlines or newspapers the next. And he rather envies the next generation facing the challenge of the new technology.

Maurice Saatchi genuinely did want to stay to fulfil his emotional commitment to the company until he was 65. He had been thinking of the millennium as a particularly thrilling time to set targets for. He would have worked, on whatever salary they offered, to restore the share price to what it once was, to refurnish their image, driven by a sense of duty and personal pride. But the man from Chicago has intervened. Mr Herro, whom he does not even know, apparently thinks Maurice Saatchi is "a toffee-nosed Brit". Even in the chill darkness of the past few weeks Saatchi has found himself able to laugh about that.

In love with your subject

After Bob Hawke's affair with his 'Boswell', **Anne McElvoy** considers the passionate pitfalls of biography



Bob Hawke and Blanche d'Alpuget make waves

She exposed him in print as a drunkard and a womaniser, whose excesses threatened to ruin his political career. He was furious, but prompted to admit his weaknesses tearfully in front of millions of TV viewers.

Passion followed humiliation. "There is a sort of bond between us," admitted Bob Hawke, the former Australian prime minister, who has been photographed this week frolicking amorously on a beach with his biographer Blanche d'Alpuget. "The reason for womanising, as far as I know, is testosterone," added a forgiving Miss d'Alpuget.

Whatever the fate of their new romance, she will not be able to claim that she did not know her partner's dark side, having catalogued it exhaustively. In her biography, she sympathised with Hawke's wife Hazel for standing by a charismatic but wayward man. Ironically, it is the affair with Miss d'Alpuget which has ended the Hawkes' 38-year marriage.

Eloping with your biographer bucks the trend. Far more subjects end up in a feud about what appears between the book's covers than end up between the covers after the book.

Pamela Harriman, President Clinton's ambassador to France and collector of a stack of illustrious lovers and husbands in her younger days, decided after 40 hours of interviews with *Time* journalist Christopher Ogden to terminate the co-operation. Ogden then sold a far less complimentary version of her life as a blockbuster.

Graham Greene liked neither his unauthorised biographer, Anthony Mockler, whom he pronounced "unspeakable", nor his official one, Norman Sherry, and thundered against the first volume of Sherry's memoirs which appeared before his death.

Live subjects are considered a lot more challenging by seasoned authors than dead ones. Sheridan Morley, who has written biographies of Hollywood stars including Elizabeth Taylor, Katharine Hepburn and Marlene Dietrich, has hoarded a collection of withering responses to his labours. "Marlene was furious and sent me a furious missive when my book about her came out in 1970. Then five other biographies were published which were far more salacious and she wrote me another letter saying that mine wasn't so bad after all and could she have 25 copies to give to friends." Dietrich later entrusted her daughter Maria Riva to write yet another story-of-her-life, only to denounce the result when it appeared and estrange the author.

"Most subjects come round to the inevitability of being reflected in a critical light in the end," Morley says. Noël Coward foresaw that outcome from the start and even gave him two lists of contacts — one of friends, one of enemies. Morley is now working on an authorised biography of John Gielgud whom he describes as "a model of co-operation".

Not so Germaine Greer, who has replied pungently to the entreaties of her latest biographer begging for a meeting. "I no more want to clap eyes on this individual than I want to study a slide of my intestinal flora." She made David Plante, author of *Difficult Women* (charting his own relationships with Greer, Jean Rhys and Sonia Orwell) promise never to speak or write about her again after reading the book. There was, he says, a strong erotic component in his relations with the subjects. "Even though I'm homosexual, I was in love with all of them. I wanted to demonstrate my own neurotic, complicated, loving feelings towards them in the work."

Kingsley Amis, who is being "done" by Eric Jacobs, has become so fascinated by the mixture of tension and intimacy between a biographer and his subject that his novel *The Biographer's Moustache*, published later this year, is built around such an encounter. "It's about the relationship between a chap and a chap," he says crisply. "And what happens when the biographer discovers that the author he is writing about is a cad."

The shock to a subject confronted with the rich detail of his of her own life in cold print can be immense. Jeffrey Bernard responded to Graham Lord's account of his bibulous life: "I must have been mad to have looked forward to it . . . for the first time in my life, you made me realise what a shit I've been . . ."

Ion Trewin, of Weidenfeld & Nicolson, says that it is fortunate that Miss d'Alpuget did not fall in love with Hawke until after she had finished his biography. "I'd be worried if I thought a biographer was falling in love with the subject. It does tend to turn the book into a hagiography." For proof of this, see Nesta Wyn Ellis's gushing life of John Major, the product of her crush on the "very sexy man" who leads us.

Even the queen of romance, Barbara Cartland, turned out to be a tough target for journalist Tim Heald, whose chronicle of her rosy life appeared last year. "She told me my paragraphs were too long and wouldn't listen to the questions," he said. "She warned that if I wrote anything disagreeable, she would come back and haunt me."

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Philip Howard



■ Attila the Hun was much misunderstood: one of the hazards of fame

For all the headlines and saturation coverage, Fred West and 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, are not going to carve a permanent niche in the language. Our memory of evil is mercifully short-term. And serial killers are discovered in banal battalions these days, so that each school year gets its own horrors. Only North Londoners now remember Cranley Gardens in Muswell Hill, to which Dennis Nilsen gave its month of ghastly fame only ten years ago.

Music hall and illustrated songsheets won Maria Marten of the Red Barn and Lizzie Borden a longer fame. Films have turned the Kray twins into a shorthand reference for gangland violence, and made 10 Rillington Place so notorious that Kensington and Chelsea had to demolish it from the geography of the royal borough. Sweeney Todd and Burke and Hare were converted into rhyming slang by melodrama and oral tradition. But few names make it into the language for longer than their own generation.

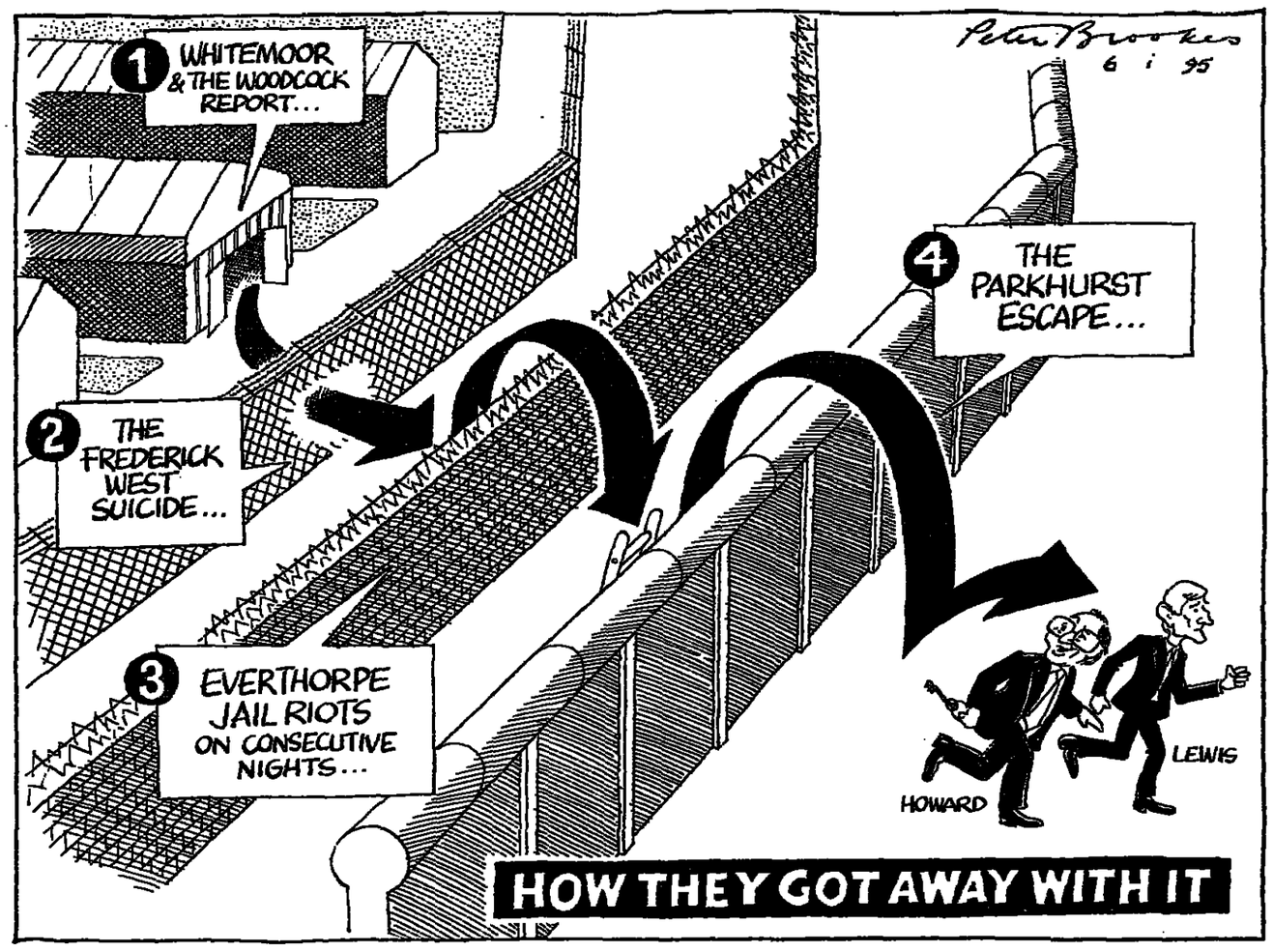
Linguistic immortality is usually unenviable: anonymity is better than eponymy. It says something disobliging about our nature that most eponyms, from Alzheimer to Zeppelin, force their way into the dictionaries for pain, grief, violence and the unpleasant bits of life. Mikhail Kalashnikov, the modest Russian engineer living in obscure poverty in the Urals, has his name chanted by gunmen in Rwanda: "You're trash without a kalash." His assault rifle has killed more people in the past 50 years than Alzheimer's. Like most people who find themselves living eponyms, Kalashnikov could not resist the platitude of saying that people and wars kill rather than rifles.

Attila the Hun has been an eponym for longer than most other mass murderers. Bismarck declared that Etzel (in English, Attila) was a greater man than John Bright, the wet pacifist reformer, because "he has left a greater name in history". Well, old Blood and Iron would have believed that about his successful predecessor in the business of unifying Europe, wouldn't he? Only someone with a hide as thick as Bismarck's would have envied Attila's conventional epithet as the Scourge of God, which implies both a punishment sent for sinful Christians by God, and perhaps a punishment inflicted by heathens on God himself. "The Hun is at the gate," Kipling wrote in 1914, and "Hun" remains a non-communautaire term for a German. The Hollywood image is of a cloud of dust, the swelling thunder of hooves, a horse-skull banner jogging up over the horizon, and then Jack Palance smiling like a crocodile through a Blitzkrieg of arrows.

Patrick Howarth, a former diplomat who served in Special Operations, and an intelligent writer of popular history, has just published a revisionist biography of Attila the Hun. This presents Attila as a world statesman who understood the importance of plunder for the Hun balance of payments, and came close to conquering the known world. He held summit meetings with the Pope. The sister of a Roman emperor proposed marriage to him. He was kind to women, children and especially horses.

Well, a new squint on history stretches the mind. But Attila is only ever going to be a white hat in Hungary, where he is a national hero. The Huns were great horsemen, and accordingly illiterate. So the sources for a revisionist life of Attila are slim and written by his victims. As the Roman poet wrote (translated freely): "Brave thugs lived before Attila. But they have vanished off the record because they had no PR-man to distribute handouts of their biogs."

As Redskins are politically incorrect necessities for westerns, Attila and his Huns are an important myth for European sensibility. The truth, though hard to find, is certainly less colourful. But we need historical bogeymen, such as the Philistines, Bluebeard and Dracula, the fiendish Frogs and hard-riding Huns as anti-heroes to make our flesh creep and define our national identity. Our stock of historical eponyms needs Attila as the Hun at the gate rather than an early Jacques Delors shuffling paper. Eponyms are colourful accessories to language. And their colour is usually red.



Is this Utopia indeed?

With its mighty mountains, tranquil lakes and unspoilt people, New Zealand truly is a magical land at ease with itself

Bernard Levin

I have painted the New Zealand portrait in the brightest of colours: but what else could I have done? Can it really be as amazing as I think? The surprising answer is yes. This is a country at ease with itself, but it is a crisp ease, not a soft one. They have, it is true, gone mad over their wine: wherever I went I had to inspect the cellar, but since the visit to the cellar was invariably followed by some serious tasting, I found it not much of a handicap. They are proud of their awesomely old glaciers; yes, but when I looked over those mighty frozen rivers, where countless visitors tread, I could find no sign of litter; perhaps more to the point, I could find no sign of a plea eschewing litter.

The cities — most of them named after their originals in Britain — flew by: Wellington, where Parliament sits and where I had half an hour with a remarkably untroubled Prime Minister (*o si sic omnes!*); Christchurch, which looks more like the one in Britain than the one in Britain; Queenstown, the Venice of New Zealand, not for its beauty but for its bustle and huge influx of visitors; Arrowtown, the very opposite, with its calm and shops selling only beautiful things; Greymouth, with its mighty breakwater wall (once, before the wall was built, the town was flooded); Dunedin, where they still revere the name of Stevenson; but, alas, not Levin — oh, yes there is a town called Levin, but a visit would have strained the crowded schedule, and I had to be content with seeing the name on a signpost pointing off the motorway. (And anyway, they pronounce it with the stress on the second syllable.)

There is one missing link in the perfection of New Zealand: although it is a long, narrow land, it is — very surprisingly — without a substantial railway network. The result is that everybody drives. No, that does not mean, as it would in almost all of the countries of the world, congestion and stinking exhausts, for I was driven for hundreds of miles in all, and very rarely indeed did I meet more than two cars coming the other way. But it means that sometimes a good many hours are needed to go from hither to thither, and when the winding hills are involved, even more hours are spent.

That, however, brings me to the winding hills themselves, and the description thereof. Easily said: almost impossible to describe. I have kept the best and the most moving to the end, because it is fitting that I should. Every time I close my eyes and think of what I saw among those hills, I am overwhelmed by beauty — beauty the like of which I have never seen before and will never see again, unless I go back to New Zealand. I am tempted to ask the Lord to describe it — after all, He made it. Anyway, I must try.

A lot of New Zealand stands on earthquake ground, and tremors are almost daily fare; moreover, much of what isn't troubled by the shaking of the earth can claim a footing on extinct volcanic matter (well, everybody hopes it is extinct), but I believe I am right when I say that this remarkable place can boast (although it doesn't boast — it is the least vain country in the world, though it has much to boast about) that the greatest part of the country is untouched by human hand. And that is why it is so difficult to describe those millions of square metres.

It is easy to say that New Zealand is made of hills and lakes; it is. But when you stand high on a hill and look down, and see the gigantic, rolling, infinitely mighty mountainsides, clad in a thousand shades of green, you can only think that some legendary giant has simply scraped with his fingernails the inhospitable sides where nothing would grow, and watched with a smile as the barren walls burst out in beauty — beauty that has endured (I am told that forest fires are few and trivial) to delight and stun with its mighty loveliness.

And that was only the hillsides. What of the water? Dear reader, how can I describe a mighty New Zealand lake nestling among hills? The first thought, when the twist in the path draws back the curtain below, is that the lake is frozen, so still, so perfectly still it is. But it cannot be frozen; very little can freeze in New Zealand, and that little — well, Shakespeare said it for me:

> Orpheus with his lute made trees,
> And the mountain-tops that freeze,
> Bow themselves when he did sing:
> To his music plants and flowers
> Ever sprung; as sun and showers
> There had made a lasting spring.

And if the hidden lakes of New Zealand are not frozen, why do they look like that? It is because there is nothing to stir their water, other than an occasional leaping fish, and because the glitter of the water is so beautiful it is almost impossible to believe that it can ripple.

There are fish in those lakes, and deer in the hills; sheep and goats browse the hillsides, and sometimes it looks as though the hill that is being cropped is so steep that the browsers must be perpendicular. I learnt that there are no genuinely indigenous animals or — I thought they said — even birds. I am no bird expert, but I remembered looking up at the velvety sky one night in Australia, and feeling a touch of fear as I saw the wrong stars, and I felt something similar when birds I was sure I had never heard before began to serenade me.

As I write, I conjure up the friends who filled those weeks for me, and I warm myself on the memory of those who are now basking in their new year sunshine. Sometimes, I think I dreamt it. Did I really go all the way to New Zealand, a country that I had hardly heard of, and did I find there a place that is not like any place I had ever been to, and make friends, and feel yearnings, and make even more remarkable discoveries? My experience in New Zealand can only be categorised as the *coup de foudre*, love at first sight. Now love at first sight is notoriously precarious, but I am certain that this love will endure. At the moment, I am trying to think of ways of getting back there as soon as possible — to salute my friends, to see the glorious Milford Sound, said to be the most beautiful sight in all New Zealand (a very considerable claim), and which I missed because of the cruelty of the schedule.

But I conclude with something very different. My last lecture was to be my final word on Utopia. I was introduced by the chairman, most generously, and I walked to the podium. But before I launched on my Utopia lecture, I said that I had something more personal to say. And this is what I said:

"Ladies and gentlemen: At last, my magic carpet comes to rest. In a matter of hours, I shall be packing for the journey home to Britain. I am crammed to bursting with the people I have met, and with whom I have made instant friendships. I have seen your breathtaking and unspoilt landscapes, and revelled almost every day I have been here in beautiful weather. (I was *told* that your weather was by no means perfect: I don't believe a word of it.)

"I have learnt, in those few weeks, that there is a country, many thousands of miles away from mine, in which I have discovered things that I had no idea existed. I am flooded with happiness, with food and wine, music and words. But of course, all these put into one do not begin to take the measure of the greatest richness of your country: its people.

"Wherever I went, my eyes were opened in a way that allowed me to gain understanding and simultaneously deepen the regret that I must leave you. There is, in the New Zealand people, a combination, as I saw it, of warmth, of steadfastness, of courage, of innocence — of what Chesterton said of England a sadly long time ago: that she was made of 'faith, and green fields, and honour, and the sea'.

"It is hard to leave; so hard, that I have something to say so startling that I can hardly believe I am saying it: I beg you to believe that I mean every word of it.

"It is this. I am 66 years old, but if I were only 20 years younger — only 20 years — and had had such an experience as I have just had in New Zealand, I would without hesitation, and without regret, tear up my return ticket."

Jail and the market don't mix

New ideas are needed, writes Bruce Anderson

Michael Howard is guilty of one of the worst offences a politician can commit. He is unlucky. There are two aspects to this, the first being his voice and manner. The real Michael Howard is an upright and honourable fellow. A man of strong opinions, he is often involved in vigorous arguments in Cabinet committees and suchlike, and sometimes loses. When that happens — unlike several others on both front benches — he never leaks his dissent or badmouths his colleagues. He is a team player: a rarer attribute at present than it ought to be.

But the public see none of this. To many of them, Mr Howard comes across as a weaselly Welsh lawyer, simultaneously weak and insincere. Most men earn their faces and their voices, and are judged accordingly. That old booby Duncan thought that there was no art to find the mind's construction in the face, and look what happened to him. But Mr Howard is an exception: the personality bears no relation to the outward man, and yet it is not clear what the poor chap could do to correct the radically wrong impression that a lot of voters have.

But even if Mr Howard spoke in Churchillian tones from a visage sculpted by Michelangelo, he would still not find it easy to be Home Secretary. He inherited the office at a difficult, career-destroying moment, with the Prison Service on the edge of a necessary crisis.

The British prison system has been in decline for years. By the time Mr Howard took over, the vast majority of prisons were mediocre, demoralised but stable institutions, in which there was a tacit compromise between Home Office officials, governors, the prison officers and the inmates, that no group would make life too difficult for any of the others. It was a rotten, corrupt set-up in need of drastic reform. But what happens when anyone starts to do so? While there is no quick solution to the mediocrity and demoralisation, the stability immediately disappears. Hence riots, escapes, officials of the Prison Officers' Association gloating over the Home Secretary's discomfiture on every news broadcast, and widespread demands for his resignation. Yet Mr Howard is no more to blame for the Prison Service's current problems that the fire brigade is for a fire.

In one respect, however, the Government is to blame. It has identified the main difficulty facing the Prison Service: the POA itself, the last Scargillite trade union, determined to block change and defend restrictive practices. Twin solutions have been adopted: privatisation on the one hand and private-sector management — Derek Lewis — on the other. Both are mistaken.

Prisons are not suitable candidates for privatisation. A prison is not an economic entity which can and should be regulated by market disciplines. It exists to incarcerate, punish and reform its inmates. The State, through the legal system, makes the judgments which the Prison Service must then carry out. As long as prisoners remain subject to that judgment, the State ought to remain responsible for its enforcement and their treatment.

The private-sector approach to prison management is also an error. The primary need in the Prison Service is not management but leadership. Mr Lewis may be a good bookkeeper and an able administrator, but he has little power of leadership. The Director-General of the Prison Service ought to infuse his personality throughout the system, as du Cane and Ruggles-Brise did in their day. As Mr Lewis is incapable of doing this, he ought to be replaced, and an obvious candidate is available.

Like most modern generals, Sir John Learmont — now investigating Whitemoor *et al* — was as good at dealing with ministers and Whitehall as he was at commanding men in the field. He is able, charming, decisive and, when appropriate, ruthless. While he was a commander he earned the reputation of being deeply intolerant of anything less than a first-rate performance by his subordinates. Nearly everyone who worked for him liked him; absolutely everyone who worked for him was a little afraid of him.

Those are the qualities which the Prison Service now needs. Indeed, the more it develops a military ethos, the better. It is no accident that the majority of the most effective governors in the system came from the Services — and a lot more ought to be recruited.

I recently visited the military correction and training centre at Colchester — the Army's last glasshouse. It is a most impressive institution, simultaneously humane and tough, with the staff determined to do the best they can for the inmates — even if the inmates themselves are not always grateful to begin with. At the outset, the commandant, Colonel Glen Grant, declared that he was proud of his establishment, his staff and his inmates. This struck me as a bold assertion, but as the day went on, it became apparent that his pride was entirely justified. I doubt if any governor of a civilian prison would be entitled to make a similar claim.

Sir John would have a simple task: to enable them to do so. He would motivate and inspire at all levels of the service, and where that failed, would sack and replace. The aim would be to ensure that, within three or four years, every civilian governor would be entitled to take pride in his establishment.

Bruce Anderson is writing a book on penal policy with Elizabeth Noel.

Plumb job

THE CITY of Bath is doing its best to ease unemployment. It has revived a job phased out nearly 200 years ago. Applications are invited for the post of water pumper at the city's Pump Room. The job description is straightforward: "A hearty dispenser of medicinal waters from the city's spa. Lively personality and historical knowledge of the city essential. Wage, £200 per week."

The pumper's resurrection is down to the modern fad for mineral water, says Stephen Clews, curator of the Roman Bath: "We are delighted by the revival of the position of pumper. This is the Grand Pump Room's 200th anniversary year, and the appointment confirms the continuing interest in and demand for spa water. Water in Bath is the best, and you get it hot."

The water does indeed come out of the ground warmer than room temperature. Salty, slimy and a little murky, the tonic can best be described as an acquired taste, but health experts swear by its life-giving properties.

Bath is last thought to have had a pumper — a stout middle-aged woman — in 1802. In those days, the pumper was an independent trader who bought the right to sell Bath water for an annual lease of around £800. As demand for the spa water fell away in the early 1800s so did the pumper's livelihood. But New Age mineral water-drinkers have come to the rescue, as the Pump Room's victuallers, Milburn Catering, would readily testify — for they are paying the salary.

● *Accompanying Princess Margaret around the exhibition about Cambridge University at Christie's yesterday, Lord St John of Fawsley was startled by one artefact on show: a life-size model of the Dodo. "I am very disappointed by how small he is," he lamented. "I thought they were huge."*

DEREK LEWIS'S BUDGIE



DIARY

One's plates

BUCKINGHAM PALACE may have tired of bottled Irish stout and withdrawn the Royal Warrant from Guinness, but Her Majesty has been more than generous with other suppliers. Wedgwood, the Stoke-on-Trent china-maker, has just received its first warrant — after supplying the Royal Family continuously with its wares for more than 200 years.

"It is because we have always supplied the Royal Household that we have never really felt the need to publicise it," says a complacent spokeswoman. "We applied for a warrant because this year is the bicentenary of the death of our founder, Josiah Wedgwood, and we thought it would be apt."

Get ahead

HE MAY BE appalled by the manner in which *The Spectator* divulged his true views on the Royal Family ("Duchess of York is a vulgarian", etc), but the Queen's former private secretary Lord Charteris can at least take his mind off this tawdry affair in the sculptor's studio. He says his work as a sculptor has saved him from the misery of the male menopause.

In one of his more guarded moments with the magazine, he told his interviewer that in the 1970s, when deeply depressed, he was talking to the sculptor Oscar Nemons as he worked on a head of the Queen. "I picked up a piece of clay and began fashioning it into a likeness of Oscar, and stuck it on the Queen's nose." Nemons was impressed and invited Charteris to train in his studio. The noble lord is now working on two commissions: one for Paul Getty, the other for Lord Rothschild.

Backing out

JOHN MAJOR may be able to excuse himself from one or two Commons votes this term. Dafydd Wigley, president of Plaid Cymru and the Prime Minister's "pair" in the House, is struggling to overcome a back injury suffered when he was innocently caught up in a protest against the Criminal Justice Bill in Parliament Square last year and was knocked over by riot police.

"Whilst I am all right standing up or lying on my back, the injury causes difficulty for me whilst sitting down on a hard seat, and that includes the bench in the House of Commons," he winces.

Musical mutt

THE INTERNATIONALLY renowned opera singer Rosalind Plowright has been clutching a stray brown mongrel to her bosom over the past few days. She rescued the dismal pooch after finding it abandoned in freezing conditions near her Surrey home. After a few fruitless inquiries, she whisked it home for dog biscuits and hot milk with honey.

"I patted and stroked him, then he jumped up and licked me in the face — it's a pity dogs can't talk and tell you what happened to them," she says. "We were thinking of calling him Tosca after one of my favourite operas, until we realised he was a boy." Plowright promptly named the animal Rusty and found a home for him with a relation in London.

P·H·S



It's a boy: Rusty

EYE OF NEWT

Gingrich's political vision should command respect

When Newt Gingrich raised the Speaker's gavel in Washington this week, a new chapter in American politics began. For the first time in over 40 years, the Republicans control both Houses. In Mr Gingrich's *Contract with America*, they have a radical programme for change, much of which they promise to implement in the first 100 days of the 104th Congress. The electoral humiliation inflicted on President Clinton in November is about to become legislative reality.

Even on its first day, the new House of Representatives aimed to pass nine sweeping procedural measures to cut congressional committee staffs, limit the terms of committee chairmen, and streamline Congress in other ways. Beginning its neo-Reaganite programme in this way, the Republican House signalled to the American people that it means what it says. The new Congress seems as ready to clean its own stables as it does to cut back federal government and public spending.

In its sheer scope, Mr Gingrich's proposed Contract is to the American Right what Roosevelt's New Deal and Johnson's Great Society have been to the nation's liberals. The new Speaker promises a balanced budget by 2002, guaranteed by constitutional amendment; tax cuts for families with children and for investors; less regulation from Washington; and a scaling down of federal agencies. He promises to fight the 1960s "counter culture" which the President and First Lady are perceived to support. His plan of action could scarcely be more sweeping.

Mr Gingrich's confidence may prove misplaced. His relations with the Republican leader of the Senate, Robert Dole, are nervous. The party's majority in both Houses is slender. It remains to be seen whether the Republicans have the political courage to cut the necessary $200 billion a year from the federal budget or to transfer some of the burden to individual states. Pruning middle-class entitlements will be especially difficult for a conservative party. Yet the ideological significance of Mr Gingrich's ascent should not be ignored.

The vote for the Republican Party in November was more than an expression of popular dissatisfaction with Mr Clinton. It seems to have indicated the continued hostility of the American people to big government, high spending and state interference. It suggested that the conservative revolution of the 1980s has taken deep root and created new expectations — to which Mr Gingrich has responded deftly.

On both sides of the Atlantic, there has been a growing assumption that the campaign to restrict the size of government has had its day. In his recent book *Dead Right*, the distinguished American journalist David Frum argues that the opportunities of the 1980s were missed by the Republicans. "They didn't dare, and they realized that they didn't dare," writes Mr Frum. "Their moment came and flickered." In Britain, Conservative consolidators argue against the "permanent revolution" of Thatcherism. The Opposition, meanwhile, aims to extend the reach of the State. "It is right for Labour to demand more government," Peter Mandelson, the MP for Hartlepool, wrote recently in *The Times*. Labour may have come to terms with markets but it remains the party of the State.

Yet these assumptions about the role of government are not universally shared. In America, Mr Gingrich and his supporters advocate radical contraction of the federal government. In this country, a powerful group of Conservative politicians led by Michael Portillo and Jonathan Aitken continues to argue for the limitation of State and its activities. The strength of their constituency has yet to be measured. Yet it would be rash to suggest that the debate on the role of government which began in the 1980s is over. The evidence from America, indeed, is that it has only just begun.

COST-EFFECTIVE JUSTICE

Legal aid needs prompt and radical surgery

It is to the Lord Chancellor's credit that few concerns have absorbed his attention more completely than that of the reform of Britain's defective system of legal aid. In April of last year, Lord Mackay of Clashfern first acted to reduce expenditure, whose soaring level was the stuff of Treasury nightmares. More recently, he responded to mounting public concern over whether legal aid was being directed at the wrong beneficiaries by addressing the question of aid for the apparently wealthy.

Yet two further questions — not unrelated — await the reformer's attention: how to ensure that legal aid is directed at the most deserving cases (defined in terms of law, not poverty); and how to secure for the Government the best value for its money. Lord Mackay is expected to outline his proposals for reform on Wednesday, in a speech at a seminar organised by the Social Market Foundation. It is a most appropriate forum, for it was the foundation which in July last year published the most penetrating study to date on the reform of legal aid.

In *Organising Cost-effective Access to Justice* the authors — Gwyn Bevan, Tony Holland and Martin Partington — argued that the Government may be a convenient scapegoat for the poor state of legal aid, "but the root cause is the high and increasing cost of legal services". The paper should be compulsory reading for lawyers across the country, and there is every indication that Lord Mackay would share that view.

In constructing a case for radical reform, one cannot ignore the fact that legal aid can make only a restricted contribution in resolving disputes and securing the rights of individuals. Ours is a legal system which is too court-centred for its own financial good; and an unthinking commitment to litigation is one reason why Britain's legal aid bill is so daunting. The Lord Chancellor is right in urging on us a change in legal culture, and commending to us the merits of a panoply of alternative methods for resolution of disputes. Not every legal question requires the attention of lawyers, nor an airing in court, which are both expensive and time-consuming. Many other agents — such as mediators, ombudsmen, citizens' advice bureaux and trade unions — provide legal services. A cash limit on legal aid need not work to the detriment of justice, as some lawyers argue.

In fact, a cash limit will only work to the detriment of those lawyers who price themselves out of the legal aid market. If Lord Mackay is prepared to build on the promising foundation already in place, of franchises offered by the Legal Aid Board (LAB), the Government could ensure that the money allocated to legal aid is not absorbed entirely by solicitors' fees. Cannot the LAB enter into contracts — for the supply of blocks of legal aid cases — with firms of solicitors which tender competitively for work? Lawyers have held legal aid in their grip for too long: it is time for Lord Mackay to ensure that the consumer comes first.

A DEGREE OF EQUALITY

October 1920: Oxford awards its first degrees to women

The status of women at Oxbridge has come a long way since Virginia Woolf was barred — as an unauthorised female — from entering a college library. Oxford permitted women to gain university degrees for the first time 75 years ago. Cambridge soon followed, granting degrees to women a year later. But both those ancient seats of learning had trailed behind more progressive London which led the way in higher education for women. A curriculum that prepared women exclusively for the instruction of children has progressed haltingly — sometimes painfully — to full-fledged equality.

In 1847, Frederick Denison Maurice of Kings's College London began a series of lectures for governesses. The following year he opened Queen's College in Harley Street which trained some of the pioneers of women's education. In 1848, Elizabeth Reid arranged lectures for women in a house in Bedford Square which eventually became Bedford College. The college gained full status preparing women for the London degree when it became available to them in 1878. An establishment opened in Hitchin in 1869 to prepare girls for the Cambridge Previous Examination and Ordinary Degree. It moved to Girton (from which it took its name) — a village two miles outside Cambridge — in 1874, but only in 1880 were its female students allowed to sit the same Tripos examination as men. Even then, their results appeared on a separate class list and they could not take degrees.

A group of Cambridge academics and their wives met at the home of Professor and Mrs Henry Fawcett in 1869 to plan courses of lectures for women. In 1875, permanent premises were opened at Newnham to prepare women for the Higher Local Examination. Newnham became a full Cambridge college in 1880. Simultaneously at Oxford, the agitation for higher education for women led to the setting up of Lady Margaret Hall and Somerville in 1879, followed by St Hugh's (1886) and St Hilda's (1893).

But the university authorities were slow to acknowledge the competence of women's performance. In 1890, Philippa Fawcett of Newnham was placed above the Senior Wrangler which meant that she was better than any other candidate in the senior Maths Tripos. But still no titular degrees were awarded to women. Indeed, women were not admitted to full degrees at Cambridge until 1948.

In 1961, there were still only 593 female undergraduates at Oxford. The real explosion in numbers came in the 1970s and 80s when most Oxbridge colleges went co-educational. But this growth in available places has been bought at the price of separate women's colleges. Almost all of the great strides in female education have been made through single sex institutions. The great achievements of girls' schools and women's colleges, as well as their histories, were often linked. Even now, school examination results testify to the greater effectiveness of single sex schooling for girls. The abolition of the all-woman college may prove a short-sighted reform if it reverses the historical trend towards greater academic accomplishment for women.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Accountability for prison escapes

From Sir Norman Fowler, MP for Sutton Coldfield (Conservative)

Sir, I strongly agree with your leader, "No escape" (January 5), when it says that it would be dangerous to call for the Home Secretary's resignation every time a prison riot occurs. That really would hand a political weapon to prisoners which would almost certainly be used.

You are on less strong ground when you state that "rarely has the Prison Service been struck by so humiliating a series of embarrassments as in the past week".

In the mid-Sixties we saw markedly greater embarrassment. In the 15 months from July 1965 we saw the escape of the convicted train robber Ronald Biggs and three others from Wandsworth, the escape of nine prisoners being transported back to Parkhurst, and the escape of six prisoners from Wormwood Scrubs.

Finally in October 1966 the convicted spy, George Blake, serving a sentence of 42 years, escaped, also from Wormwood Scrubs. In passing sentence on Blake the Lord Chief Justice had said "your case is one of the worst that can be envisaged in times of peace".

In those days the Prison Service was not an agency. The responsibility of the Home Secretary was direct.

I do not recollect that Roy Jenkins, the Labour Home Secretary at the time, resigned as a result of these escapes. What he did do was to set up a committee of inquiry under Lord Mountbatten, and between them they introduced much needed improvements.

Equally there should be no question of Michael Howard resigning. He should be allowed to take the action which is necessary to restore public confidence — as I am sure he will.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN FOWLER,
House of Commons,
January 5.

From Mr Jim T. Daniels

Sir, The Home Secretary and the Prime Minister are ignoring some fundamental rules relating to "leadership".

True, it is not Mr Howard's job to search the prison cells, nor is it Cedric Brown's to read the gas meters nor Richard Branson's to serve the in-flight meals. However it is their job to ensure that these respective tasks are performed.

It is for this (demonstrated) inability to ensure that delegated tasks have been performed that requests (and demands) for the Home Secretary to resign or be fired are being made. If John Major does not understand this basic principle, then voters in more places than Dudley will soon explain.

Yours truly,
J. T. DANIELS,
40 Windsor Road, Chobham, Surrey.
January 5.

From Mrs Erica H. T. Abbott

Sir, As the Director-General of the Prison Service gets a performance bonus for saving money, should we not make deductions when his performance costs us money?

Yours sincerely,
ERICA H. T. ABBOTT,
56 Tothill Street,
Minster, Ramsgate, Kent.
January 5.

From Mr George A. S. Cox

Sir, I read that when Casanova escaped from prison in the Doge's Palace in Venice in 1756, the person responsible for guarding him was sentenced to ten years in his own dungeon. Who is responsible for the latest escape?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE A. S. COX,
Easter Gourdie,
Meikleour, Perthshire.
January 4.

From Dr Bob Bury

Sir, It's all very well changing the locks at Parkhurst, but how will the prisoners get back in?

Yours faithfully,
BOB BURY,
3 Elmete Avenue, Oakwood, Leeds.
January 5.

Delays and time-wasting in courts

From District Judge Stephen J. Greenwood

Sir, I am surprised that members of the medical profession are complaining about the delays and waste of time in the courts (letters, December 26, January 3). It is not uncommon that litigants have to wait for nine months more to be seen by a consultant.

When trying to fix a hearing date, it is the medical profession who create most of the difficulties for the courts. It appears to me that they are only willing to attend court when it is convenient to them, without giving any thought to the needs and requirements of all the other persons involved in the litigation.

This is unacceptable. If a consultant is willing to become involved in personal injury litigation, he should be prepared to accept a limit of the length of time before a litigant is seen and be willing to attend court when it is convenient for the courts, the litigants, the non-medical experts, and the lawyers.

I would suggest that the British Medical Association and the Law Society meet to prepare a code of practice, in the hope that these problems can be eliminated.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN J. GREENWOOD,
Hook House,
Hook, nr Goole, Humberside.
January 3.

From Mr Thomas R. Osborne

Sir, I am amazed that the expert witnesses who have responded to Mr C. B. T. Adams's letter of December 26 had been under the impression that the courts were organised by the Lord Chancellor's Department for the convenience of litigants, witnesses, or members of the public.

As someone who has been exclusively concerned with personal injury High Court litigation for the last 15 years it has long been apparent to me that the courts are run purely and simply for the convenience of the judges.

Reform is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS R. OSBORNE,
Osborne, Morris and Morgan (solicitors),
Danbury House, West Street,
Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.
January 3.

From Mr Chandra P. de Fonseka, FRCS

Sir, Two of your correspondents have suggested that only the retired may in future be able to afford the time to waste to appear as experts in court.

From 1968 to 1985 I reported to solicitors and barristers in over 400 cases of road traffic accidents on the causes of injury. Many were the hours I wasted in courts. I had to attend court in only about one in 12 cases and was required to give evidence only in about a quarter of these. Sometimes a subpoena was issued to compel attendance but evidence not taken.

In spite of the fact that I was paid for the inconveniences, and that some of the challenges were fascinating, when I retired from the NHS at 65 in 1985 I decided to give up all work involving the courts as I felt that the pleasures of retirement, including foreign travel, were too pleasant to be put at risk. The memory of the stresses of getting involved is too powerful as I plan my next trip.

Yours faithfully,
CHANDRA P. de FONSEKA,
10 Glendevon Road,
Whitchurch, Bristol, Avon.
January 4.

Vandals at work on listed houses

From Mr Godfrey Carter

Sir, I have much sympathy with Mrs Teresa Gorman, MP, and with Lieutenant-Commander Maunder (report, December 24; letter, January 3), for their inability to make alterations to their ancient houses without obstruction by the conservation bureaucracy.

My sympathy is accompanied by a sense of guilt, because it was I who, as Parliamentary Counsel, drafted Part V of the Town and Country Planning Act 1968, comprising the original legislation governing the demolition and alteration of listed buildings. Sufficient time has elapsed for me to say something about the policy of the Act, which was not, of course, mine but that of the then Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

There had been some scandalous cases in which fly developers had, without notice to anyone, demolished handsome old buildings in order to obtain clearance of a valuable site. The first thing was to put a stop to that, and we did so.

The second thing was to ensure that people could not commit outright vandalism on buildings of particular quality. The giving and withholding of approval to a given alteration was to be in the hands of local planning authorities, who have themselves in many places been the worst vandals of all.

With misgivings, I created a clause which made it an offence to alter a listed building in such a way as "to affect its quality as a building of architectural or historic importance". The test is objective, to be applied by a court on a criminal charge, rather than according to the subjective opinion (or political prejudices) of the council or its officials. By plain implication, the impact of the alteration must be significant, not trivial.

I foresaw, and warned in vain, that this would result in a bureaucratic field-day. The most trifling alterations to an old house would have to be negotiated with the council, whose officials would seek to control more and more, and prohibit more and more. This is precisely what has happened. I hear constantly of cases in which people wishing to make their old houses more habitable, or embark on a sensitive restoration, are frustrated by planning committees subservient to their officials, or by the veto of an opinionated representative of English Heritage.

I do not think that this was the real intention of the legislation. It certainly wasn't mine.

This house, incidentally, is listed Grade II*, and had been in need of major restoration. Happily, we were able to do all that was necessary before the legislation came into force.

Yours faithfully,
GODFREY CARTER,
Old Bournstream House,
Wotton-under-Edge,
Gloucestershire.
January 4.

Peace in Ireland

From Mr David W. Bleakley

Sir, The Duke of Abercorn's tribute (letter, December 22) to "the remarkable resilience of the Northern Ireland people" was well timed, as was his forecast of real hope, optimism and emerging confidence for the peace process. Northern Ireland's joy at Christmas bears out all he says.

However, he also rightly reminded us that peacemaking is in the "intensive care stage". For this reason, as the peace agenda for 1995 begins to unfold, it is vital to underline the centrality of public opinion to any negotiations that take place. Moral authority for peacemaking in Northern Ireland is passing from its politicians to the people, who often speak a language which many in high places do not understand.

In fact, a sea change has taken place in the polity of the Province in which reconciliation signals are being given by the people in a common consciousness unique in Irish history. Governments must find ways to respond to this reality and if this means appealing to the tribunal of the people of both North and South over the heads of prevaricating negotiators, so be it. What needs to be understood is that no public mandate has been given or will be given for a return to pre-ceasefire conditions.

International friends of Ireland can do much to encourage the essential communal unity which is emerging among the Irish people in general, as they seek to influence events.

It is also my particular hope that a collective Nobel peace prize for the Northern Ireland people would be regarded as a fitting recognition of their steadfastness under shared stress, and an encouragement to them to maintain their present common resolve to make their peace process irreversible.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID W. BLEAKLEY,
8 Thornhill,
Bangor, Co Down.
January 3.

Air cadet funding

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, Mr James Farrell deserves support in his plea for maintaining air cadet facilities in the RAF (letter, December 28).

As someone who has been involved for two decades in liaison between universities and HM Forces, I can testify to the enormous enthusiasm of young men and women for air cadet programmes. Not more than ten years ago there was hostility in some universities to the armed services: recruitment notices were torn down and in some cases banned by militant politically-motivated staff.

This is no longer the case, and there is a welcome resurgence of interest in supporting our country's national defences. It is ironic that this new enthusiasm should be faced with continuing cuts in air cadet training.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh 9.
December 29.

From Mr Bruce E. Brandon

Sir, Although I have every sympathy for the spirit of the views expressed by Mr Farrell on the effect that defence cuts will have on air cadets, I can only say "welcome to the real world".

The air cadets, along with the army and sea cadets, have enjoyed government sponsorship and access to military facilities (because of their link with the armed forces) that have not been available to other youth groups such as the Scouts, Guides and my own organisation, the Boys Brigade.

At local level we have to be self-financing. The recession has reduced the moneys available to us by fund raising. The leaders are all volunteers but do not (I suspect) have the same privileges that the volunteer officers of the cadet forces enjoy.

All youth groups provide support and encouragement to the young people of this country. It is an area that has been much neglected by successive governments. Unless this is recognised, a decline which has already set in will be accelerated and Mr Farrell's worst fears will be realised.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE BRANDON
(Captain, 8th Watford Company,
The Boys Brigade),
126 Crawley Drive,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.
December 29.

Dry Sundays

From Ms Gillian T. Walker

Sir, It is ironic that in the same issue of *The Times* (December 31) there was published the excellent article by Jan Morris on the decline of the British Empire and on the facing page a letter from Mr D. W. R. Evans calling upon our "governor-general", Mr John Redwood, to "do something" about the local licensing laws in Dwyfor area.

Our "dry Sundays" are the result of regular referendums reflecting the wishes of the majority of the people of Dwyfor. Mr Evans's call upon Mr Redwood shows that whilst the British Empire may have declined, colonialism is not yet dead.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN WALKER,
4 Tai'r Efail,
Pencaerau, Y Rhiw,
Pwellheli, Gwynedd.
January 3.

Unfair to vendors

From Mr D. H. Allen

Sir, Mr Charles Birt (letter, December 30) is correct when he says that insurance rates charged by some auction houses are unfair to vendors.

Smaller local auctioneers pay an annual premium to cover all items "held on trust" and make no charge to the vendor.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. ALLEN,
Lewisham Auction Rooms,
North House, Oakley Road,
Bromley Common, Kent.
January 1.

Still ship shape

From the Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

Sir, While having read your headline "Shipwrights scuttled in battle to save naval jobs" (January 5), with some alarm, may I assure your readers that this company is still afloat, intends to remain so, and has no intention of becoming the Worshipful Company of "Plater-Fabricators".

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
R. F. CHANNON, Clerk,
Worshipful Company of Shipwrights,
Ironmongers' Hall, Barbican, EC2.
January 5.

Glenn Miller memory

From Dr James C. Briggs

Sir, Mary Sims (letter, December 27) is correct. Paul Dudley, who was the programme director of the Allied Expeditionary Force band, was not on board Glenn Miller's fatal Norseman flight. He died in 1959.

After the war he became a distinguished radio and TV writer. This included a period in England in the mid-1950s as the writer of the TV series *Robin Hood*.

Only Miller, Lieutenant-Colonel Norman F. Baessell (executive officer to the commanding general of the 8th Air Force) and the pilot, Flight Officer Johnny Morgan, were on the plane. Greater detail can be found in Geoffrey Butcher's book, *Next to a Letter from Home*.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES C. BRIGGS,
194 Stoke Lane,
Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, Avon.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Labour and Europe

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset and East Devon (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, I was interested to read that the Labour Party is to host a conference on business in Brussels on January 10 (report, December 29).

I wonder if the business people who attend will be reminded of the Labour Euro-MPs' anti-business voting record since the elections to the European Parliament in June — their support for the Social Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty, their repeated condemnation of the British opt-out from it.

Will they be told about the way in which Labour MEPs in the European Parliament's committee on economic and monetary affairs in December voted against proposals to alleviate the burden of over-regulation and red tape on small companies?

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN CASSIDY,
The Stables, White Cliff Gardens,
Blandford Forum, Dorset.
December 30.

Uneven honours

From Mr Stanley J. Blenkinsop

Sir, Apart from scrapping the BEM and increasing the number of MBEs instead, it seems to me that little has changed with the Honours List (letter, January 4).

Certainly the anomalies remain, such as putting the creator of the Samaritans on the same level as entertainers and a football manager who are simply doing the jobs for which they are already handsomely paid.

The Prime Minister has made much of his invitation to the nation to submit nominees for awards. But surely this right has always existed. As a member of the public I wrote to two of his predecessors (Macmillan and Thatcher) with reasoned cases for the inclusion of people I felt should be honoured. Both were.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY J. BLENKINSOP,
22 Roan Court,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.
January 4.

Business letters, page 25

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COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 5: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, today opened the Cambridge University Exhibition, "Foundations for the Future", at Christie's, King Street, London, SW1.

The Hon Mrs Wills and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

Birthdays today

Major K.G. Adams, 75; Mr Malcolm Appleby, engraver, 49; Mr Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, 40; *Mr Paul Azinger, golfer*, 35; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, 68; Mr Roger Barton, MEP, 50; Mr A.J. Bowkett, chief executive, Berisford International, 44; Sir Ashley Bramall, former chairman, GLC, 79; Sir Robert Clark, former deputy chairman, TSB Group, 71; Mr John Croft, criminologist and oil painter, 72; Mr Angus Deayton, writer and broadcaster, 39; Mr Kapil Dev, cricketer, 36; General Sir Martin Farndale, 66; Sir Hugh Fish, water scientist, 72; Mr Ronald Goldstein, joint founder, Superdrug, 58; Mr Barry John, rugby player, 50; Mr P.J. Kavanagh, writer, 64; Sir Christopher Lewinton, chairman, TI Group, 63; Miss Nancy Lopez, golfer, 38; Lord McColl of Dulwich, 62; Sir Hamish Macleod, financial secretary, Hong Kong, 55; Mr Richard Nerurkar, athlete, 31; Mr Martin O'Neill, MP, 50; Lord Plowden, 88; Mr Bill Sirs, trade unionist, 75; Mr J.P. Sowden, former chairman, Costain Group, 78; Miss Sylvia Syms, actress, 61; Mr Terry Venables, England football team coach, 52; Sir Ernest Woodroofe, former chairman, Unilever, 83.

Sir Patrick Dean

A Thanksgiving Service for the life and work of Sir Patrick Dean, GCMG, will be held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel on Wednesday, January 25, 1995, at 5.00pm.

Church in Wales

The Rev Philip Anthony Crowe, former Principal, Salisbury-Wells Theological College, to be Rector of Overton, Penley and Erbistock (St Asaph).

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: King Richard II, reigned 1377-99, Bordeaux, 1367; St Joan of Arc, Domremy, France, 1412; John Smith, colonised Virginia, Willoughby, Lincolnshire, 1579; David Dale, industrialist and philanthropist, Stewarton, Ayrshire, 1739; Jacques Etienne Montgolfier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1745; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, Newbuckow, Germany, 1822; Gustave Doré, artist and book illustrator, Strasbourg, 1832; Max Bruch, composer, Cologne, 1838; Carl Sandburg, poet, Galesburg, Illinois, 1878; Tom Mix, film actor, El Paso, Texas, 1881.

DEATHS: Baldassare Peruzzi, architect, Rome, 1536; *Fanny Burney*, novelist and diarist, London, 1840; Hartley Coleridge, writer, Grasmere, Cumbria, 1849; Louis Braille, inventor of the reading system for the blind, Paris, 1852; Richard Henry Dana, writer, Rome, 1882; Gregor Mendel, geneticist, Brno, Czechoslovakia, 1884; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th American President 1901-09, Oyster Bay, New York, 1911; Victor Fleming, film director, Phoenix, Arizona, 1949; A.J. Cronin, novelist, 1981.

Samuel Morse gave the first public demonstration of his electric telegraphic system, 1838.

The new Sadler's Wells Theatre opened, London, 1931.

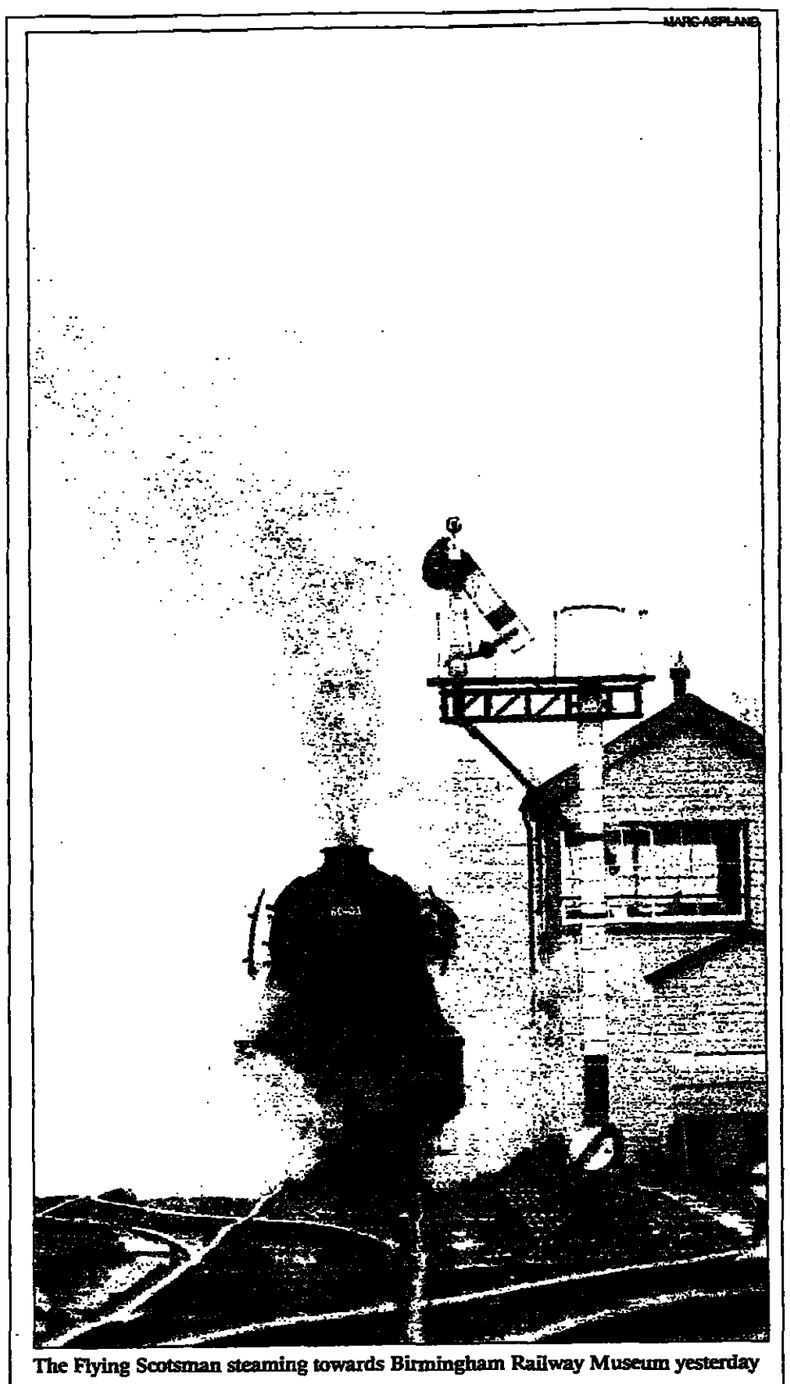
Luncheon

Blacksmiths' Company
The Earl of Shrewsbury and Professor Duncan Dowson were admitted to the Livery of the Blacksmiths' Company at a court luncheon held yesterday at Innholders' Hall. Mr B.J.M. Illes, Prime Warden, presided. Mr R.J. Thompson, Immediate Past Master of the Farriers' Company, and the Master of the Framework Knitters' Company and their Clerks were present.

Dinner

The Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor entertained at dinner last night at the Mansion House the Chief Commoner and Members of the Court of Common Council, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, the High Sheriff for Greater London, Mayors and Leaders of the Greater London Boroughs, Aldermen, High Officers of the Corporation of London and Ward Clerks of the City of London. The Lord Mayor, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and the Chief Commoner were the speakers.

MARC ASPLAND



The Flying Scotsman steaming towards Birmingham Railway Museum yesterday

First blast in a new age of steam

The plan to build Britain's first mainline steam locomotive since 1960 took a big step forward yesterday with a ceremony at Birmingham Railway Museum to mark the erection of the engine's frames. Also there was the Flying Scotsman, one of the most famous steam locomotives. The new engine will be named Tornado after the Nato aircraft, and nameplates were handed over which had been made at RAF Cottesmore, where European forces have been training on the Tornado since 1981.



RAF, German and Italian Air Force officers with *nameplates specially made for the locomotive*

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.C. Aczel
and Miss B.E. Harley
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Aczel, of Cobham, Surrey, and Bertha, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R.M. Harley, of South Brent, Devonshire.

Mr J.A. Amias
and Miss D. Cowen
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Alan Amias, of Kensington, London, and Ruth Eisenfeld, of Hampstead, London, and Deborah, daughter of Peter Cowen, of Finchley, London, and Barbara Lebovits, of Jerusalem, Israel.

Mr J.W.M. Barber
and Miss N.R. St John
The engagement is announced between John William McKenzie, son of Professor W.J. Barber, OBE, and Mrs Barber, of 306 Pine Street, Middletown, Connecticut, and Nicola Rosemary, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.O. St John, of Spital, Biggar, Lanarkshire.

Mr N.H.L. Barker
and Miss S.R. Carden
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Barker, of The Georgians, Wingham, Kent, and Serena, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Carden, of Cat Street House, Upper Hartfield, East Sussex.

Mr W.E. Billington
and Miss P.A.H. Dodds
The engagement is announced between William Eric, youngest son of Gwynn and Leslie Billington, of West Kirby, The Wirral, and Phillippa Anne Hainsworth, younger daughter of Rod and Mary Dodds, of Butleigh, Somerset.

Mr W.G.H. Binns
and Miss E.J.D. Haddock
The engagement is announced between William George Hamish, son of Mr and Mrs J. Binns, of Drighlington, Yorkshire, and Emma Jane Danby, daughter of Mr and Mrs S. Haddock, of Guiseley, Yorkshire.

Mr C.H. Coull
and Miss F.C. Smith
The engagement is announced between Colin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs George Coull, of Perth, Western Australia, and Frances, only daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs David Smith, of Witney, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.D.L. Dickson
and Miss F. Graesser
The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Dickson, of Wimbledon, London, and Fern, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Rhidian Graesser, of Llandyrnog, Clwyd.

Mr D.S. Fielden
and Miss S.J. Higgins
The engagement is announced between Mr Dominic Shaw Fielden, of Bath, Avon, and Suzanne Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Higgins, of Besselsleigh, Oxon.

Mr M.S. Davies
and Miss A.J. Wilkinson
The engagement is announced between Martin Stuart, younger son of Mr and Mrs Vincent Davies, of Northaw, Hertfordshire, and Amanda Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Wilkinson, of Kelbrook, Lancashire.

Mr R.M. Eveleigh
and Miss S.J. Jennings
The engagement is announced between Rick, son of Mr and Mrs Morris Eveleigh, of Croydon, Surrey, and Samantha, younger daughter of Professor and Mrs Barry Jennings, of Luney Barton, St Austell, Cornwall.

Mr J.M. Fairhurst
and Miss L.J. Simpson
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Dr and Mrs Richard Fairhurst, of Hindhead, Surrey, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander Simpson, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Mr J.G. Haithwaite
and Miss C.L. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Deryk Haithwaite, of St John, Jersey, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Jenkins, of Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire.

Mr J.R. Hayes
and Miss S.J. Redwood
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Dr and Mrs R.A. Hayes, of Frampton Cotterell, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.W. Redwood, of Bristol.

Mr T.P. Holmes
and Miss A.E.M. Clarke
The engagement is announced between Timothy Paul, son of Mr and Mrs John Holmes, of Speen, Buckinghamshire, and Alice Elizabeth Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Clarke, of Much Hadham, Hertfordshire.

Mr N.J.W. Hooper
and Miss C.L. Walden
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Ivan Michael Hooper, of Dormans Park, Sussex, and Mrs Colin Campbell, of Ropley, Hampshire, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Mrs Samuel McCall-McCowan, of Monaive, Dumfriesshire, and the late Michael Walden.

Mr M.J.A. Laithwaite
and The Hon J.M.C. Baring
The engagement is announced between Marcus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Paul Laithwaite, of Deeside House, Chester, and Jessica, second daughter of Lord and Lady Howick of Glendale, of Howick Hall, Alnwick, Northumberland.

Mr C.J. Marrow
and Miss M.J.M. Owen
Mr and Mrs Robert Lacey Owen, of Tudor Manor, Horney Common, East Sussex, are delighted to announce the engagement of their elder daughter Mikayla Janine May to Christopher John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael John Marrow, of Elmwood, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.R. Lindsay
and Miss A.K.L. Tait
The engagement is announced between James, son of the late the Hon Patrick Lindsay and of Lady Amabel Lindsay, and Arabella, daughter of Mr Gavin Tait and *Mrs Humphrey Swire*.

Mr J.S. Mackay
and Miss L.L.D. Jenkinson
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J.C. Douglas Mackay, of Faversham, Kent, and Laura, daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Jenkinson, of Goldhanger, Maldon, Essex.

Mr M.C. Pfleger
and Miss A.J. Dolphin
The engagement is announced between Martin Pfleger and Mandy Dolphin, both of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr J.P. Roberts
and Miss L.J. Trenaman
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Captain and Mrs C.J. Roberts, of East Preston, West Sussex, and Lyanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs I.W. Trenaman, of Great Wakeritig, Essex.

Mr A.G.B. Smith
and Miss R.K. Mitchell
The engagement is announced between Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs Graham Smith, of Dorking, Surrey, and Rowena, only daughter of Captain and Mrs Antony Mitchell, of Shaugh Prior, Devonshire.

Dr R.A. Smith
and Miss E. Welch
The engagement is announced between Robert Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.F. Smith, of Worthing, West Sussex, and Elizabeth, twin daughter of the late Mr A.F. Welch and of Mrs J.B. Welch, of Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Mr T.C. Sweeney
and Miss K. Ferry
The engagement is announced between Charlie, son of Mr and Mrs John Sweeney, of Lullington, Somerset, and Karine, daughter of M and Mme Michel Ferry, of Bordeaux, France.

Dr C.G. Tiley
and Miss V.J. Wilcox
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Professor and Mrs John Tiley, of Cambridge, and Vanessa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Les Wilcox, of Torpoint, Cornwall.

Mr T.J. Veysey
and Miss A.J. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Trevor, second son of Mr and Mrs H. Veysey, of Tiverton, Devon, and Amanda, only daughter of Professor and Mrs Jim Taylor, of Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

Mr G.M. White
and Miss M.S.R. Scott
The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Thompson, of Warminster, Wiltshire, and Maymie, daughter of the Hon Simon and Mrs Scott, of Kelso, Roxburghshire.

University news

Cambridge
King's College
Elected into an official fellowship under statute E.IV.7 (council) for three years from January 1 as a college teaching officer in French: Andrew Stephen Brown

Durham
St Chad's College
Dr C T R Hayward, Reader in the Department of Theology, has been elected Senior Fellow of the College, from Epiphany Term 1995.

Queen's University of Belfast
The title of Professor Emeritus has been conferred on Dr John Bridges, Professor of Haematology from 1979 to 1994, and Dr Richard Clarke, Professor of Anaesthesia from 1980 to 1994.

Honorary Titles
The title of Honorary Lecturer, in the School of Clinical Medicine, has been conferred on the following:
Dr K R Milligan, Consultant Anaesthetist at the Belfast City and Musgrave Park Hospitals; Dr J N Murray, Consultant Anaesthetist in the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald; Dr T Bradley, principal and senior partner of a four-doctor teaching practice affiliated to the Department of General Practice in Queen's; Dr A J Jackson, who has primary responsibility to provide a comprehensive low vision service for Northern Ireland; W G Humphreys, from 1979 consultant surgeon, the Waveney Hospital, Ballymena, and now Senior Surgeon, the Antrim Hospital; and S J Kirk, consultant surgeon, Ulster Hospital, Dundonald.
The title of Honorary Lecturer, in the School of Clinical Dentistry, has been conferred on T A Gregg, consultant paediatric dental surgeon to the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, the School of Dentistry and the Ulster Hospital.

School news

Queenswood School
The Spring Term at Queenswood School begins on Sunday, January 8, and ends on Tuesday, March 28. The English Wind Ensemble will be performing at the school at 7.30pm on Wednesday, February 1, as part of the Queenswood Subscription Concert Series; full details from the Music Department.

Queenswood's Gala Centenary Concert at The Barbican Hall - Monday, March 27, 7.45pm. Tickets from School or The Barbican Centre Box Office.

Centenary Festival Week - July 1-8. Details from School Centenary Office.

Trinity School, Teignmouth
The Spring Term at Trinity School (Convent of Notre Dame) commences on January 10. The Reunion Dinner for Old Pupils who left between 1966 and 1979 will be on February 17. For details telephone 0626 774138.

Wellingborough School
Wellingborough School marks the start of celebrations of its 400th anniversary with a Quatercentenary Service on Sunday, January 29, at which the address will be given by the Bishop of Peterborough. Old Wellingburians who would like information on the programme of celebrations are invited to contact the Headmaster's Secretary at the School, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 2BX.

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PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Once you were resolved to go astray from God; now with tenfold zeal you must turn back and seek him.
Baruch 4 : 28 (REB)

BIRTHS

BEHRENS - On December 22nd 1994, to Deborah (née Sandler) and Robert, a son, Samuel Leonard, a brother for Benjamin.

BROWN - On 30th December, to Davida (née Berdach) and Steven, a son, Samuel. A grandson of Freddy and Vanda Berdach and also the great-grandson of Walter Berdach.

DUNBAR - On Boxing Day 1994, to Judith (née Howlett) and Jim, a daughter, Alice.

GENZEL - On 4th January, to Nicola (née Hendy) and Alan, a son, Alexander William.

GLICK - On 27th December 1994, to Roxane and Ian, a son, Saul David, a brother for Louis and Joseph.

HALL - On January 2nd at St Mary's Paddington, to Melanie and Martin, a daughter, Jessica Anne. A sister for Edward.

HARFORD - On 2nd January 1995, at George Town Hospital, Grand Cayman, to Elma (née Strachan) and Henry, a son, Alexander Scandrett.

JAMES - On 3rd January 1995, to Annett (née Wilcox) and Andy, a son, Dicon Daniel Margrave.

LLOYD WILLIAMS - On January 4th, at Royal United Hospital, Bath, to Jackie (née Beaumont) and Martin, a daughter, Holly Elizabeth, a lovely sister for Tegan and Benedict.

MARSHALL-CHURCHER - On December 28th 1994, to Peter and Lorraine, a beautiful daughter, Megan Siobhan. Grateful thanks to all the staff involved at the Royal London Hospital.

MERRIAM - On December 30th, to Heidi (née Martin) and Philip, a son, Joshua Philip, a brother for Jessica.

MORRIS - On 20th December, to Susan (née Turner) and David, a daughter, Fleur Evangeline, a sister for Eleanor.

O'MALLEY - On 28th December 1994, to Catherine and Leslie, a daughter, Charlotte Katrin, a sister to Joanna.

PARKER - On 1st January, to Lindsey (née Blamey) and Christopher, a beautiful son, Lewis Forbes Courtney.

RAKICH - On 29th December 1994, at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, London, to Victoria (née Beresford) and Ian, a daughter, Georgia Grace.

REDMAYNE - On January 1st 1995, to Stephanie (née Woollen) and George, a son, Samuel Robert.

TATTERSALL-WALKER - On December 27th, to Tracie (née Donnelly) and Barry, a son, Liam Graham, a brother for Elana.

BIRTHS

WESTON - On December 31st 1994, to Rachel (née Crabtree) and Michael, a son, Oliver James.

DEATHS

BAKER - Suddenly at home on 3rd January, John Callingridge, aged 66, dearly loved son of Joyce Cohen and the late Colonel John Baker and wonderful friend to so many. Funeral, Fairway Church, Wednesday 11th January, 12 noon. Donations to Village Charities c/o Shoobridge's, Honiton, EX14 8JX.

BECKER - Henry, on December 30th, after a long illness bravely borne. Dearly loved husband of Evelyn, loving father of Suzy, Richard and James.

BOWER - Thomas Cecil (Tom), on 4th January 1995 in Cincinnati, Ohio, peacefully after 3 months illness. Born 13th July 1914. Educated Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Much loved father of Peter and Stephen. Major, Lustral Brigade 14th Army World War II Burma. Senior Vice-President Procter & Gamble, retired to Antibes, recently to Cincinnati, Ohio. Service Cincinnati 7th January 1995. No flowers. Donations and enquiries to Emmanuel College Development Fund, Cambridge. tel: (0223) 330476.

BUICK - On 1st January 1995, of Highfield, Marlborough, formerly of Harpenden. David, aged 90, loved brother of Marjorie. Funeral at St Mary's, Marlborough, on Friday 13th January at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for Save the Children Fund c/o T. Free & Sons, The Parade, Marlborough, Wilts.

BURDON - On January 3rd 1995, peacefully at home in West Byfleet after a long illness, Marcel Leon, aged 71 years. Sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral Service on Tuesday January 10th at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, 12.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if wished, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o G. Boutell & Son, tel: (0932) 345037.

CAMPBELL - On January 2nd 1995, suddenly at home in France, Marguerite (Tita), devoted wife of Donald and much loved mother of Venetia, Virginia, Alban and Alexander.

DEATHS

CARTER - On 30th December, peacefully in a nursing home after a long decline, Dorothy Enid (née Williams), aged 86 years, widow of Colonel A.H. Carter, C.M.G., mother of John, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Holy Cross Church, Ramsbury, Marlborough, on Friday 13th January at 12.45 pm. Flowers by 2.30 pm, Thursday 12th January to Deric-Scott, 755 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, (01202) 309609.

CHELLEW - Tom, former executive director, Cable & Wireless plc, suddenly on Tuesday 3rd January, aged 69. Much loved husband of May, devoted father of Kathryn, Michael, Elaine, Emma and James and loving grandfather to Daniel, Sean, Tom and Conor. Sadly missed by family and friends. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to British Heart Foundation, c/o Mulley & Son, 284 St Marys Lane, Upminster RM14 3DH. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, on Thursday 12th January at 1 pm followed by cremation at Corbetts Tey. Friends and colleagues respectfully invited.

COVINGTON - On January 4th, peacefully, Rosalind Eve, widow of Kingsley Covington, aged 99, at West Willering Private Nursing Home. Dearly loved Mother of Ann and grandmother to Juliet and Alison, 4 great-grandchildren and great-great-grandmother to Cassandra. Private funeral service at Chichester Crematorium. Family flowers only.

DICKSON - Suddenly on December 29th 1994, Ian Scott, aged 66 years, RAF retd, and 18 years Association with St Dunstan's, of Burston Hill, Shrewsbury. Beloved husband of Nancy. Funeral Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Tuesday January 10th at 3.20 pm. Flowers and enquiries please to Funeral Directors E.H. Owen & Son, tel: (0743) 362741.

FARRA - Marwan, M.A., aged 44, beloved husband of Dody and father of Rafic and dearly loved son of Rafic and Ruffina. Passed away peacefully in his sleep in Beirut on 3rd January 1995 after a long illness bravely endured. Condolences FaxBeirut 603 161.

DEATHS

FORTESCUE - Died peacefully at home, on 4th January, Richard Lewis Fortescue aged 85 years of Wootton Fitzpaine, Private cremation. All welcome at the Thanksgiving Service at Wootton Fitzpaine Parish Church on Thursday 19th January at 2 pm. Either flowers or donations, if desired, for the RAF Benevolent Fund c/o A.J. Wakely & Sons, 91 East Street, Bridport, Dorset. Flowers by 10 am please.

GILES - On December 28th 1994, suddenly but peacefully at home, Jean, much loved and devoted wife of Carl. Funeral Service at St Martin's Church, Tuddenham, near Ipswich, on Wednesday January 11th 1995 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired, made payable to St Elizabeth's Hospice, may be sent to Farthing, Singleton & Hastings, 650 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich, IP4 4PW, tel: (0473) 272711.

GLOAG - On 2nd January, peacefully in hospital, Brian, aged 77, Retired Director of John Shaw, Worksop. Much loved father of Gerald and April and grandfather of Georgina and James. Service at St John's Church, Perlethorpe (Thoresby Park), 12.30 pm on Saturday 7th January. Donations, if desired, to R.N.I.I. c/o Gibson Funeral Directors, Rainworth, nr. Nottingham, Notts.

GOSSS - On 4th January 1995, Muriel Betty, widow of Major Gerald D. Goss, Royal Ulster Rifles, mother of Michael and Timothy and much loved grandmother. Funeral Service at Bramcote Crematorium, Nottingham, on Thursday 12th January 1995 at 1.30 pm. No flowers by request, but donations if desired to the National Deaf Children's Society, London EC1Y 8PD.

GREENE - Irene Margaret, passed away peacefully on 2nd January. Loving wife of Keith, mother of Gillian and Michael and granny to Stuart, James, Ben and Joseph. Funeral Service at the Union Church, Mill Hill, at 11.15 am on 10th January. All donations please to The Royal Brompton Hospital c/o H. Phillips, 530 Watford Way, Mill Hill, NW7 4RS, tel: (081) 959-4392.

HAMM - Christine, on 30th December peacefully in hospital after a long brave fight. Beloved wife of Mike Hamm and devoted daughter of Ken and Gwen Knowles. Funeral Service at St John's Wood Parish Church, London NW8, at 11.30 am on Thursday 12th January. Donations to Breast Cancer Care or flowers as you desire both c/o Leverton & Sons Ltd., 212 Evershott Street, London NW1 1BD.

DEATHS

HIRSCH - On January 4th, peacefully in Bristol, Leonard Hirsch (Wolfish). Funeral at Canford Crematorium, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, on Thursday 12th January at 2.30 pm. Mourned by his daughters Ann Leonie Kosmiyski, Yvonel, Elsa, Gang and by his grandchildren Simon, Suzy, Julian, Kathy and Nicola. There will be an interment service at Golders Green Crematorium on Monday February 6th at 3pm. Donations for The Alzheimers Society c/o Thomas of Davis, Funeral Directors, Southville Lodge, Southville, Bristol BS3 1DJ.

HOLLAND-JENKINS - Tragically at Arkleby Old Rectory, Ravenglass, Cumbria, on Sunday 1st January 1995, Peter and Iona, dearly loved husband and daughter of Tarn (née Bartholomew) and much loved father and sister of Joel. Funeral Service and Interment to be held at St Cuthbert's Church, Plumbland, Aspatria, on Tuesday 10th January at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if desired, for Plumbland Church to Mr M. Spendelow, Funeral Director, 13 Beacon Close, Aspatria, Cumbria. Friends please accept this intimation.

HOWARD-WHITE - On 4th January 1995, peacefully, in the Westacres Nursing Home, Winchester, Marjorie Katherine Howard-White (née Alderman). Dearly loved widow of Frank Butler Howard-White and sister of Susan Ouvry. Mourned by family and friends. Funeral will be private but a Memorial Service will be held later, on a date to be announced, at the Bourne, Farnham, Surrey.

KEYSER - On 3rd January 1995, Peter Edward. Loving brother of Joan. Service on Wednesday 11th January, Woodvale Crematorium, Lewes Road, Brighton at 1pm. Flowers if desired may be sent to Attree & Kent, 108 Church Road, Hove, East Sussex. tel: (0273) 821986.

MAHER - On January 2nd, after a short illness, John, deeply loved husband of Wendy and much loved father of Katy, Jonathan and Rosie. Funeral Service at St Lawrence Church, Stone Street, Sevenoaks, Kent, at 2pm on Monday 9th January 1995. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to "LFU Special Fund" c/o Ann Packnell, Kings College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS.

DEATHS

MARCHANT - Keith George, died 2nd January 1995, aged 66 years, dearly loved husband of Pamela and father of Mark and Matthew. Service at Tonbridge Parish Church, Church Lane, Tonbridge, Kent, 1.30 pm Tuesday 17th January 1995. Flowers c/o Abbey Funeral Directors, 173 Tunbridge High Street, Tonbridge, Kent.

MARINER - On January 4th 1995, in hospital after a short illness, Peter Frederick aged 73 years. Greatly loved husband, father and friend. Cremation private, family flowers only. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Sturminster Newton, on Thursday January 12th at 2 pm. Donations, if desired, for The League of Friends, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton may be sent c/o G.E. Johnson & Son, F/D, 41/43 High Street, Shaftesbury, tel: (0747) 852113.

McCARTER - On Wednesday January 4th at Shrewsbury Hospital, John Michael, much loved husband of Jean-Marie and loving father and grandfather. Funeral Service and Interment at St Leonard's Church, Yarpole, near Leominster. Donations to St Leonard's Church Fund, Yarpole. Funeral arrangements contact Allen Mann, tel: Leominster (0568) 612569.

MORROGH - On 29th December 1994, peacefully, in Shankill, Co. Dublin, Dermot, Dearly loved husband of Betty and father of Andrew, Peter, Julie and William.

NEWSAM - On December 29th 1994, in hospital, aged 81, Bernard, surly Exeter scholar, husband of Barbara, father of Julia, Brian, Sarah and James (deceased). Well loved grandfather to his seven grandchildren.

PHILPOT - Formerly Lavers, on Tuesday 3rd January 1995, suddenly but peacefully, Gladys (Sandy), in her 86th year, dearly loved and loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Funeral at St Nicholas Church, Great Bookham, on Thursday 12th January 1995 at 12 noon. Enquiries to W.A. Truslove & Son Ltd., tel: (0372) 725557.

PRESTON-WALKER - On 28th December 1994, suddenly but peacefully, of North Barrow, Somerset, David John, aged 58 years, a much loved husband of Anne. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, North Barrow, on Friday January 6th at 2.30 pm. No flowers please but donations, if desired, for The British Heart Foundation c/o Mr Harold F. Miles Funeral Director, South Cadbury, BA22 7EB, tel: (0963) 440367.

DEATHS

REED - Jocelyn Raynes. Peacefully at home in Salisbury on 4th January 1995. Service at Salisbury Crematorium on Thursday 12th January at 3.40 pm. No flowers but donations if desired to Marie Curie Nurses c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, 88 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1HL. (01722) 413136.

ROBERTSON - Peacefully at Gartnavel General Hospital, on 2nd January, Doris, aged 81, much loved by her family and many friends. Funeral Service at Glasgow Crematorium, Maryhill, on Monday 9th January at 2pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations in lieu to Cancer Research, Cambridge, 16 Lynedoch Street, Glasgow, G3 6EF.

SINGLETON - Joyce Mary, died peacefully on January 1st. Very much loved and missed by Anthony, Claire, Sarah, Ruth and Gordon. Service in Lewes on Thursday 12th January at 2pm. Hanningtons F/D, tel: (0273) 778933.

TARRIER - On 30th December, Major Philip Gordon, Royal Artillery (rtd.), husband of Iris and father of Nicholas and Clare. Forever loved by us all. Private cremation. No flowers or letters please but donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 61 Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC2.

VEY - On December 31st 1994, Diana of Shaftesbury, widow of David Hamilton Wingate Vey and mother of the late Natalia Antonia Hamilton Vey. Requiem Mass at St Edward's Church, Shaftesbury, on Thursday January 12th at 10.15 am.

WADDINGTON - On 3rd January, after a long illness borne with outstanding courage, Pam, much loved wife of John and mother of Jane and Anna. Private family funeral and cremation. Memorial Service St Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge, nr. Bromsgrove, at 1.30 pm on Thursday 19th January. No flowers please but any donations to Cottage Ward Trust Fund, Princess of Wales Community Hospital, Bromsgrove.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

TURNI - A Memorial Service for Robert Percy Turni OBE will be held at St Paul's Church, Bentley Common, Brentwood, on Saturday January 28th at 2 pm. For directions tel: (0277) 63071 evenings.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

DICKEN - Timothy, 6th January 1989. Loved and remembered.

GILMAN - Barbara, on January 6th 1995. Remembered with deep affection, Garth.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BUTTERFIELD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Michael will be held at the Church of St Bride, Fleet Street, on Thursday 19th January at 11.30 am.

GALLEGOS - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Peter Burn Gallegos will be held at St Andrew Holborn, London EC1, on Friday January 20th 1995 at 11.30am.

MARRIAGES

DICKSON - On 31st December 1994, at Russell, New Zealand, Dr. Derek G. Dickson to Pamela, daughter of the late Mrs Daisy Donnel, with Dr. R.L. Starr in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASYLUM - I have received your letter about asylum. Please ring me on the Hrushetskis number you have. Paul Gilvarley.

C.A.HEWIES Happy Birthday Cen. Vickie are Miss. Anne. Please contact me No 2771

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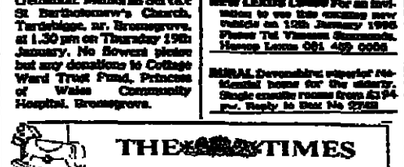
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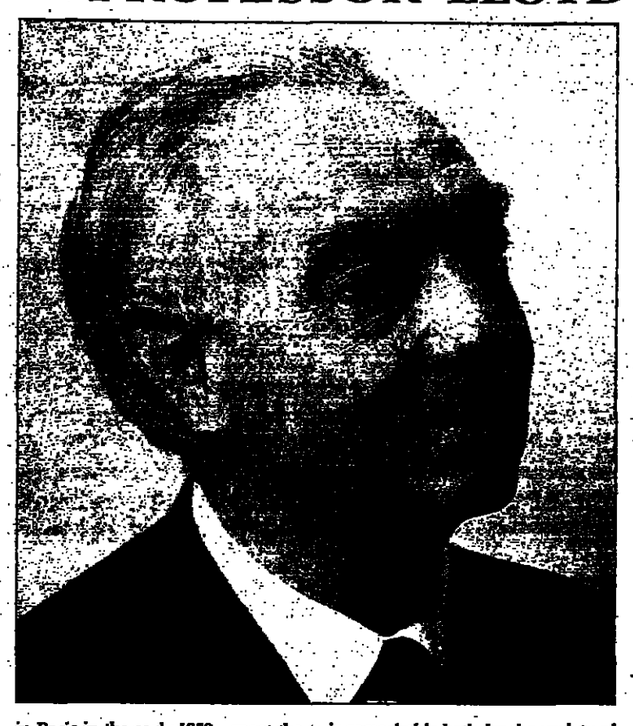

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR LLOYD AUSTIN

Lloyd Austin, Drapers Professor of French in the University of Cambridge, 1967-80, died on December 30 aged 79. He was born on November 4, 1915.



LLOYD AUSTIN was an internationally renowned scholar of 19th-century French literature and an influential figure in the establishment of French studies as a serious intellectual discipline in British universities. He will be particularly remembered as the author of many fine critical studies of Baudelaire, Mallarmé and Valéry and as the editor of the 11-volume complete correspondence of Mallarmé.

Lloyd James Austin was born in Melbourne, and educated first in the local Church of England grammar school and then at the University of Melbourne, where he took a First in 1935. He was a pupil of A. R. Chisholm, whose powers as a teacher and pioneering work on the French symbolists gave the study of Mallarmé a distinctive Australian dimension, which continues to this day. In 1937, after a period spent as a preparatory school master, Austin proceeded to France with a French Government scholarship. His doctorate on Paul Bourget was completed, in the face of severe difficulties, during the first months of the war and published in 1940. In that year he returned to Australia with his wife Jeanne Guérin, a graduate in English of the Sorbonne, and took up a lectureship in Melbourne. From 1942 to 1945 he saw active service in the Special Branch of the RANVR, stationed in New Guinea and the Philippines.

Austin was appointed to a lectureship at St Andrews in 1947 and, apart from an extended period of research in Paris in the early 1950s, spent the remainder of his career in the British university system: as a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, 1955-56 and 1961-80, as Professor of Modern French Literature at Manchester, 1956-61, and then as lecturer, reader, and, from 1967 until his retirement in 1980, Drapers Professor of French at Cambridge.

Austin's contribution to the study of Baudelaire, Mallarmé and Valéry is remarkable both for the variety of major issues he tackled and for the range of skills he brought into play in his critical writing. Textual interpretation is supported by trenchant historical argument and by an effortless bibliographical expertise. It was these qualities, already amply displayed in Austin's *L'Univers poétique de Baudelaire* (1956) and in numerous articles on Mallarmé, that made him an ideal collaborator for Henri Mondor on the projected complete edition of Mallarmé's letters.

When Austin joined Mondor in 1959, shortly after the appearance of the first volume, it was thought that the whole work would be complete in a further three volumes. Mondor was to provide the texts and Austin the scholarly annotations. When Austin assumed sole responsibility for the remaining volumes on Mondor's death in 1962, he saw that the task was likely to be much lengthier and more complex than had at first appeared. But he can have had little notion of the practical, financial and diplomatic difficulties which lay ahead. Austin was to solve all these with indomitable good sense.

Austin's labours on the Mallarmé edition were brought to a triumphant conclusion with the publication of the final volume in 1985, but long before this the exceptional quality of his scholarship had been widely recognised. Among the many honours that were bestowed upon him, he was particularly delighted by his election to the British Academy (1968) and to the Belgian Académie Royale de langue et littérature françaises (1980), and by the award of an honorary doctorate at the Sorbonne (1973) and the rank of Officier de l'ordre national du Mérite (1976).

Austin was a person of astonishing physical and intellectual energy, and for many years combined his research activities with what amounted to two other full-time jobs — as the head of a large academic department in Cambridge and as general editor of *French Studies*, the main English language journal of the subject. He was a student of literary letter-writers, but one who also maintained a huge international correspondence of his own. He was indefatigable as a supervisor of research students, a visiting lecturer in other universities and a speaker, chairman or respondent at conferences. To younger colleagues in universities he sometimes seemed a ferocious figure. The sight of his leonine head towards the front of an academic audience could strike terror into the heart of a novice lecturer, and his magisterial style during question-time was often more memorable than the paper to which he was responding. "Not so much a question, more a press release," one younger colleague was heard to remark of an especially robust Austin intervention.

What was remarkable, however, about the cast of his personality was his ability to combine an intensive programme of academic work with an entire range of other enthusiasms. The pleasures of parenthood and grand-parenthood, of music, painting, travel, wine and political discussion, and of wide reading in Latin, German and English as well as in French, were in no sense adjuncts to his professional career: like the career itself, they were eagerly pursued and a source of profound satisfaction to him. He was a hedonist, but of a particularly public-spirited and generous kind.

His books, articles and editions remain a lasting achievement, but he will also be remembered with gratitude by very many scholars and pupils from around the world, to whom he gave advice and encouragement with exceptional warmth and openness of mind.

Austin's final years were overshadowed by a series of strokes, but even then his appetite for new experience was unimpaired. He faced the prospect of his own death with outstanding courage and dignity.

He is survived by his wife Jeanne, and by their four children.

ROBERT NESBITT



Robert Nesbitt, theatrical producer and impresario, died on January 3 aged 88. He was born in London on January 11, 1906.

URBANE and courteous, Robert Nesbitt was the pre-eminent producer of spectacular stage shows, cabarets, revues and pantomimes in London for more than 40 years. Throughout his life he believed in glitter, glamour and spectacle and was a master at staging lush, colourful extravaganzas. He was credited with changing the face of light entertainment in the West End bringing lavish spectacle to mass audiences. If his artistic taste was sometimes questioned, his extravagance was never doubted and — particularly in the austere postwar years — his ability to enliven the entertainment world with imaginative splendour was widely appreciated.

Educated at Repton and Oxford, Robert — never "Bob" — Nesbitt presented almost every top star in a career which took in Charlot revues, George Black extravaganzas, Pigalle floorshows, Las Vegas and New York productions, West End revues, Palladium pantomimes, 25 Royal Variety Performances, royal galas, and two decades at the Leicester Square cabaret room, The Talk of the Town.

His was a life of first nights, international talent, Ziegfeld-style lines of showgirls and dancers, lavish costumes, and coping with the temperaments of the world's biggest stars. Not for him the manic and bellowing producer beloved of Hollywood pictures and fiction. He stayed ever-calm and whatever he had to say to a frightened, nervous, or truculent artist was always spoken in private.

The man whose name had appeared on showbills for more than 50 years was, though, saddened at what had happened to the London he had known as a young man. He recalled: "Then it had style and audiences dressed for the occasion. Now there is so much slobbish dress and behaviour. I think of Marlene Dietrich at the Café de Paris and wonder who would wear evening dress in Coventry Street today?"

He had begun his working life in advertising — writing for revues and cabaret in his spare time. One of these was *Ballyhoo*, which featured Hermoine Baddeley and Richard Murdoch at the Comedy in 1932. The director dropped out and Nesbitt asked if he could take over. He was on his way.

After that there was a succession of shows and a permanent Charlot contract in 1935. He went to see Lupino Lane's *Me And My Girl* on tour and proposed some changes, two acts rather than three, and recommended a twice-nightly season at the Victoria Palace. It ran for nearly three years and has since been successfully revived.

Before the Second World War he staged his first West End pantomime, and in his next Evelyn Laye made her debut as Principal Boy. George Black was impressed and gave Nesbitt shows like *The Little Dog Laughed* at the Palladium with the Crazy Gang, followed by *Black Velvet* with Pat Kirkwood and Vic Oliver (and gowns by Hartnell).

In all he could claim to have been responsible for ten West End productions running for more than 500 performances, of which seven went to over 600 (*Black Velvet, Get A Load Of This, Strike A New Note, Happy And Glorious, The Night And The Music, Starlight Roof, Plaisirs de Paris*). In 1954 he left for New York for a Ziegfeld Follies revival, which never happened, and then he moved to Las Vegas, where he produced a Vera Ellen revue.

It was Bernard Delfont who brought him back to London with an offer to produce a series of Palladium shows, and to give him artistic control of a soon-to-be-devised new venue. At the instigation of Delfont and Charles Forte, Nesbitt remodelled the old London Hippodrome and, after a £250,000 refit, it was opened as a theatre-restaurant called The Talk of The Town, presenting the top stars of the day. Nesbit overcame the problem of how to feed more than a thousand customers at a time by introducing an airline-style trolly-service. In between his regular floor shows he presented numerous charity galas.

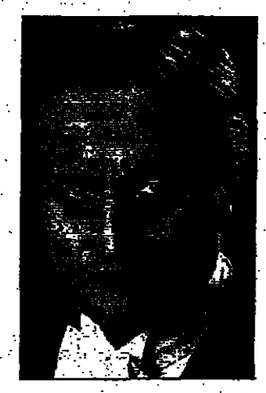
Perhaps his biggest challenge was regularly devising and staging the showbusiness night of the year — the Royal Variety Performances at the Coliseum, the Palladium, or the Prince of Wales theatres. He always had less than a weekend to rehearse the stars, who had often flown in from around the world, and to fix the programme. But his gentle English charm and impeccable manners invariably brought order out of chaos. Nesbitt particularly remembered Maurice Chevalier on one bill. Nobody was then allowed to perform to the Royal Box but Chevalier ignored the rule and went down on one knee to the Queen Mother to sing "You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby". As Nesbitt said: "Only he could have got away with that cheek."

Among the hundreds of artists he staged were George Robey, Jack Buchanan, Jessie Matthews, Sammy Davis Junior, Sophie Tucker, Ethel Merman and Lena Horne. They all knew the Nesbitt flair and trusted in his experience. He personified elegance and style, both on and off stage, and — as someone once said — was the kind of man who could drop his case anywhere in the world and know that a porter would appear from nowhere to pick it up.

He is survived by his wife Iris. They had no children.

EDUARDO MATA

Eduardo Mata, Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, 1977-93, died in a light aircraft crash at Cuernavaca, Mexico, on January 4 aged 52. He was born in Mexico City on September 5, 1942.



DURING his 16 years as music director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Eduardo Mata so improved the Texas ensemble's performance standards that it was catapulted into the national and international spotlight. This was no mean achievement, given that Dallas was not noted for its cultural refinement.

Mata had gone to the United States on a Koussevitzky Fellowship in 1964, after studying at the Mexican National Conservatory with the composers Carlos Chavez and Julian Orbon.

Initially he had begun to compose works in the classical vein himself, but a spell at the Berkshire Music Centre in Massachusetts under the conductors Max Rudolf and Erich Leinsdorf convinced him that his future lay in conducting.

He returned to Mexico to become music director of the Guadalajara Symphony Orchestra, and held similar posts with the University of Mexico Philharmonic, the Phoenix Symphony, the National Symphony of Mexico, the San Salvador Festival and the Casals Festival, before moving to Dallas in 1977.

There, Mata established a reputation for clean, direct interpretations of such Latin American composers as Silvestre Revuiltas, Alberto Ginastera, and Heitor Villa-Lobos, but he also conducted and recorded a broad repertory that ranged from Mozart and Schumann to 20th-century American, Russian and French composers.

His schedule was hectic. While in Dallas he was also a principal guest conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony, and director of the National Opera of Mexico. After leaving Texas in 1993 he had become the principal guest conductor of the New Zealand Symphony.

A qualified pilot, Eduardo Mata was at the controls of the aircraft in which he and a friend, Maria Anaya, died. He is survived by one son and one daughter.

FRED ROY

Fred Roy, retailer and chairman of Roys of Wroxham, died on December 24 aged 74. He was born on March 14, 1920.



FRED ROY was the power behind one of the largest family-owned provincial department stores in the country, Roys of Wroxham, situated in the village of Hoveton in north Norfolk. That flagship store, together with the company's two other Norfolk sites, Eaton and North Walsham, had chalked up a £1 million weekly turnover by the time of Roy's death and employed more than 700 staff. Although it still contained the original oak-panelled office in which Fred Roy's uncle had done business, it was in all other ways a shining example of modern retailing.

Fred Roy had a very personal idea of service, and those who knew him well tended to see him as the archetypal village shopkeeper. Those businessmen who had never met him, however, tended to think of him as a modern, millionaire retailer, forever analysing the next move for "The World's Largest Village Store", as Roys was known for 60 years.

Both sides of him were equally true, but his success was largely down to predicting new trends. For instance, Roy was one of the first British retailers to invest heavily, in the early 1960s, in good car-parking facilities, at a time when the concept of out-of-town shopping was still in its infancy. But his attention to the fine detail was such that, every day until his death, he could be found on the shop floor, calling staff and customers by their first names, and picking up discarded till receipts and wrapping paper.

Frederick Arnold Roy was born in Coltishall. The family shopkeeping business, founded there in 1895 and run by his father Alfred and uncle Arnold, was already a very substantial enterprise by any standards, particularly so in the then deeply rural backwaters of north Norfolk.

His retail training began in childhood, most of which he spent living alongside the staff, literally above the shop in Coltishall. Later he was sent away to gain experience under the tutelage of Albert Joyce of the Kettering Co-operative Society.

He spent the war in the Royal Artillery, and afterwards returned to the business where his skills were put to the test in the early 1950s following the deaths, two years apart, of his father and uncle. Although it was facing no problems with sales, the company was crippled with death duties and years of what had been, at best, patchy management. The store at Hoveton was suffering particularly, having problems keeping pace with the booming holiday trade on the Norfolk Broads.

In 1953 Fred Roy became chairman and managing director of the company and, against all available professional advice, persuaded his brothers and sister that their inheritance still had a future, if they were prepared to work at it.

Ten years of unremitting effort followed as Roy dragged the business out of virtual bankruptcy and put it back on its feet. There then came a period of expansion which has barely slowed since, with Roy visiting Australia, America and Canada to learn about new shopping trends.

Though Roy's health deteriorated recently, he spent time in his office or walking around the store most days. He was also a champion of the independent retailer — being the chairman in the 1970s of the national buying organisation, Associated Independent Stores.

In 1964 Roy married Ann Joice who survives him, together with a son and daughter.

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"DYING BY HUNDREDS"

INFLUENZA SCOURGE IN CAPE TOWN

The following graphic details of the terrible sufferings of Cape Town from the influenza scourge are contained in a private letter from the head sister of the New Somerset Hospital:

"We have had a most terrible time in Cape Town, and, in fact all over South Africa with Spanish influenza. It has upset everything: the rush in Cape Town has been so dreadful that every one who was not ill has been worked to the limit. At first we laughed and joked about the "*flu*," but in a few days people began to be ill by the dozens; the sickness was very violent, very short and very fatal. Before the first week was out they were dying as if with a plague, by the scores and later by the hundreds. The deaths started at 20 a day, and before many days mounted up to 500 and even 600 a day. In two weeks 6,000 have died and Cape Town was like a city of the dead. In the hospital here the servants were took ill first: then all the laundry people, the porters and ward maids; last of all the doctors and nursing staff. People died in the streets; at one time big, covered wagons patrolled the streets to pick up the dead. A house-to-house visitation was started and the most terrible state of affairs was discovered: whole families stricken, the dead and living in the same beds, no food in the house, no one able to crawl out to get it. All delivery carts stopped, no one to drive them; shops shut; trains and trams stopped running; theatres, bioscopes, and churches all empty and closed. It was like the Great Plague of London. No clergymen or priests to bury any one. At the height of the plague there were no coffins, and the people were buried in blankets. The bodies turned black some hours before death, and the stench from them a day, or even two days before they died, was like a pestilence. In the hospital here we were crowded out, and all the staff short. My nurses worked like heroes; never can I tell how fully they lived up to the highest traditions of their profession. Young nurses all working at more than their best, the dead and dying all round, and death in a terrible form too, many shrieking to the last in a terrible delirium. Yet my nurses never faltered; they knew it was almost impossible for them to escape getting it; steady, brave, and loyal girls, they never failed me and at times, I had to ask such big things of them; none of them ever said 'No'".

ON THIS DAY

January 6 1919

Spanish flu was not confined to that country or to continental Europe as Britain knew only too well. In South Africa it had, perhaps, its most terrible effects: a story of suffering relieved only by the conduct of the nursing staff.

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY JANUARY 6 1995

NEWS

Prince will divorce, ex-aide says

■ The Prince and Princess of Wales will divorce and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has resigned herself to the prospect, one of the Royal Family's closest confidants says in a frank interview.

Lord Charteris of Amisfield, former Private Secretary to the Queen, is also blunt in his assessment of the Duchess of York. "She is vulgar, vulgar, vulgar, and that is that," he says in the interview in *The Spectator* magazine ..... **Pages 1, 16**

Hectic opening session for Congress

■ In an opening session that lasted 14 hours and finished at 2am, the new Republican Congress in the United States forced through a series of reforms that were designed to make it more *open and accountable and less wasteful of taxpayers'* money ..... **Pages 1, 12,**

Prison key found

A replica pass key believed to have been used by three highly dangerous prisoners in their escape from Parkhurst jail has been discovered fifty yards from the perimeter wall ..... **Page 1**

Euro trade protest

The European Commission is delaying a trade agreement with Russia in protest at its aggression in Chechenia. The agreement was signed by President Yeltsin at the Corfu summit ..... **Pages 1, 11**

Hitmen's target

British accountant David Wilson was coldly put to death by hooded *gunmen after an American con*man ordered hitmen to kill him, a jury was told ..... **Page 3**

Man 'blew up house'

A husband, upset over a divorce settlement which meant he had to leave his home, blew up his house and tried to commit suicide, a court was told ..... **Page 3**

Assembly doubts

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, has questioned the need for daily religious assemblies in schools and called for a review of the law ..... **Page 5**

Outside interests

An analysis of the register of MPs' interests by Labour Research shows that eight of John Major's former ministers have acquired 40 paid directorships and consultancies ..... **Page 4**

Census omissions

The 1991 census missed more people than any other *this century*, with many young people, either homeless or of no fixed address, being excluded ... **Page 8**

UN troops plea

The United Nations Secretary-General has called for the creation of a rapid-reaction force to counter the organisation's increasing shortage of peacekeeping troops ..... **Page 12**

Settlers' threat

Leaders of the 120,000 heavily-armed Jewish settlers in the West Bank have pledged to begin a *"Lebanese-style civil war" against* local Palestinians if the Israeli army withdraws ..... **Page 10**

Banda arrested

Crowds thronged of Malawi's cities *to celebrate the arrest of Hastings* Banda, the former President, and John Tembo, his aide, in connection with the murder of four ministers ..... **Page 13**

Convoy halted

Critical UN operations in the Bihac enclave ground to a halt after Serb-backed rebel Muslims held up a resupply convoy with *anti-tank missiles and automatic* rifles ..... **Page 10**

MP child limit

The Indian parliament is being asked to approve legislation under which MPs would be limited to two children ..... **Page 13**

Historic chance to become a fishwife

■ *One of England's first wedding parlours is about to open in* a museum dedicated to deep-sea fishing. Happy couples will be given the chance of dressing up in oilskins and waders for a ceremony conducted by a former ship's captain in a trawler's fish hold. The bride can also arrive for the wedding on a 19th-*century horse-drawn fish cart* ..... **Page 5**

PETER TRIEVNOR



A Victorian enamel and diamond brooch priced at £6,250 and on sale at this week's Dorchester Antiques Fair in London

BUSINESS

Mortgages: Homeowners could have to pay more for monthly endowment mortgage premiums as life companies report further cuts in bonus rates ..... **Page 21**

NatWest Tower: The main refurbishment work on the 600 ft NatWest Tower is due to begin next month — nearly two years after it was severely damaged by the Bishopsgate bomb blast .... **Page 21**

British Gas: Customers of British Gas are applying to switch to rival suppliers at the rate of 72,500 a month ..... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 19.3 points to 3032.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 80.0 to 79.9 after a rise from $1.5622 to $1.5635 but a fall from DM2.4359 to DM2.4287 ..... **Page 24**

SPORT

Cricket: John Woodcock hails a great Australian opening pair in Mark Taylor and Michael Slater ..... **Pages 40, 37**

Boxing: Frank Bruno is taking the safe option with a bout against the unrated Puerto Rican, Rodolfo Marin, at Shepton Mallet, as a warm-up for a possible world title contest ..... **Page 34**

Golf: John Hopkins caddies for the septuagenarian golfer, Peter Gracey, as he battles against the *elements in the President's* Putter ..... **Page 38**

Football: Reading have turned to Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding as their new joint player-*managers* ..... **Page 36**

Real tennis: Clement Freud on an undervalued sport ..... **Page 34**

ARTS

Writing wrongs: With so many unemployed and homeless in Britain, the condition-of-England question might appear as pressing now as when Dickens explored it. So where are the angry writers of today? ..... **Page 31**

Thumbs up: Benedict Nightingale praises Winsome Pinnock's latest play, *Leave Taking*, a humane, balanced touring show for the National ..... **Page 31**

Triumphant return: "Go away for a while — get a life," critics told the teenaged Tanita Tikaram. The maturity of her latest songs suggest she has done just that ..... **Page 33**

Then and now: Two dance companies on the *Côte d'Azur* are celebrating the best of 20th-century ballet ..... **Page 32**

FEATURES

Chrissie's friends: Magnus Linklater attends a funeral which convinces him that the community spirit still exists ..... **Page 14**

Good's news: "I believe that UFOs have caused communications problems in military and civilian traffic." Timothy Good talks to Joanna Pitman ..... **Page 14**

Ad-men: Valerie Grove tells the story of her friend Maurice Saatchi ..... **Page 15**

INFOTECH

All systems go: Last year experience of traditional mainframe computers was in demand. Which skills are needed now? ..... **Page 30**

Mouse traps: The signs are that the mouse could be as much a health risk as the keyboard ..... **Page 29**

LISTINGS

Preview: Siobhan Redmond of *Between the Lines* lets her hair down in a new comedy about a disorganised Scottish airline. *The High Life* (9.30pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss applauds the winning formula of BBC2's job-application series, *Situation Vacant* ..... **Page 39**

OPINION

Eye of Newt

In the Gingrich Contract with America, the Republicans have a radical programme for change, much of which they promise to implement in the first 100 days of the 104th Congress ..... **Page 17**

Cost-effective justice

Lawyers have held legal aid in their grip for too long: it is time for the Lord Chancellor to ensure that the consumer comes first ..... **Page 17**

A degree of equality

The abolition of the all-woman college may prove a short-sighted reform if it reverses the trend toward greater academic accomplishment for women ..... **Page 17**

COLUMNS

BRUCE ANDERSON

Michael Howard is no more t blame for the Prison Service's current problems than the fire brigade is for a fire. But he inherited his office at a difficult, career-destroying moment ..... **Page 16**

PHILIP HOWARD

For all the headlines and saturation coverage, Fred West and 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, are not going to carve a permanent niche in the language ..... **Page 16**

PETER RIDDELL

Michael Howard is not about to resign as Home Secretary. Nor is there any serious pressure on him to do so. But the latest troubles in the prisons will damage his reputation ..... **Page 2**

OBITUARIES

Lloyd Austin, Drapers Professor of French in the University of Cambridge, 1967-80; **Robert Nesbitt**, theatrical producer and impresario; **Eduardo Mata**, former director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; **Fred Roy**, retailer and chairman of Roys of Wroxham ..... **Page 19**

LETTERS

Sir Norman Fowler on the Home Secretary's accountability for prison escapes ..... **Page 17**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **THE HOT 100**
From Springsteen to Stipe — win *The Times* 100 Greatest Pop Songs of All Time

■ **REVIEWS**
Jonathan Meades eats in Agadir, Graham Lord meets Ironing John, Nigella Lawson's diary

THE PAPERS

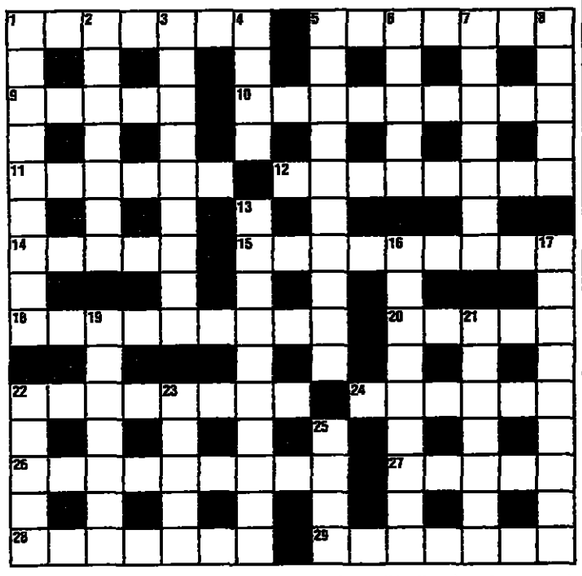
The Clinton Administration should support in whatever way it can the hesitant French and German efforts to use the Organisation for *Security and Co-operation in* Europe, of which Russia is a member, to bring about a Chechenian ceasefire and de-escalation

— The Los Angeles Times

The new ceasefire is a predator's dream. It leaves the Bosnian Serbs in militarily and diplomatically unchallenged possession of the territory they seized and scrubbed "ethnically clean"

— The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,745



ACROSS

1 Make rough trip in one's car (7)
5 Pick-up point where unromantic teacher meets head (3,4)
9 Clique initially formed by chance (5)
10 Brief but memorable passage from channel to bay, say (5,4)
11 Celebrity in divorce centre rejected new wife (6)
12 Provide even more cover for controller? Certainly! (8)
14 You can count on them getting transport back into capital (5)
15 On the rocks near Southampton, with five on board (9)
18 Crippled and unskilful player put on line (9)
20 Having driven dangerously, asked to be excused? (3,2)
22 Put into office, having been elected, say, by 500 (8)
24 Bad feeling produced by arrest, we hear (6)
26 Head off in direction of East stand (9)
27 Magnificent little chaps (5)
28 Hunted creature fled back into drey in confusion (7)
29 Start journey with an empty stage? (4,3)

DOWN

1 Bird, fish, and insect (9)
2 State — a revolutionary Balkan one, without monarch (7)
3 Game that's so inferior his interest's ending (4,5)
4 Unsophisticated fare succeeded in foreign theatre (4)
5 Naval flag produced by navy officer (4,6)
6 It links the South of France and an African country (5)
7 People's champion finds supportive member in sympathy (7)
8 Bishop, for one, brings some food to church (5)
13 Part of watch that was very cold for Mimi (6-4)
16 Become engaged to secure some brass (4,5)
17 Reflect on changes in musical notation (5,4)
19 Close to crash, for example, coming out of Lyme Regis (7)
21 *In counting house, there's 28!* (5-2)
22 Gather from a certain fertile allotment (5)
23 Ruler of Queen's Navee was never so perplexed (2,3)
25 Sound head needed for political *group (4)*

Solution to Puzzle No 19,744

P	I	E	C	E	S	O	F	E	I	G	H	T		
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Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
East S Fife,Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	1
Essex,Herts,Beds,Bucks,Berks,Oxon	2
Kent,Surrey,Sussex,Hants	3
M25 London Orbital only	4
National traffic and roadworks	
Nationwide motorways	
West Country	
Wales	
Midlands	
East Anglia	
North-west England	
North-east England	
Scotland	
Northern Ireland	

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Wednesday Highest day temp: Falmouth, Cornwall 11C (52F); lowest day max: Strath Alan Tayside, 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Mumbles, West Glamorgan 0.67in; highest sunshine: Hastings, East Sussex 6.2hr.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.55 am — Sun sets: 4.05 pm

Moon sets 10.49 pm — Moon rises 10.16 am

First quarter January 8

London 4.08 pm to 8.05 am
Bristol 4.15 pm to 8.14 am
Edinburgh 3.56 pm to 8.41 am
Manchester 4.06 pm to 8.23 am
Penzance 4.36 pm to 8.20 am

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have clear or sunny spells with showers, mostly in western regions. Showers will die out later. Western parts of Wales will see rain by midnight.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers, wintry over higher ground. These will die out, but cloud will thicken with rain spreading from the west. It will be windy.

☐ **London, S E England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N:** clear or sunny spells after early frost, generally dry, perhaps the odd shower. Winds light to moderate west to northwesterly. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Channel Isles, S W England, S Wales:** a few showers then dry. *Becoming cloudy later. Wind north-*westerly, *light to moderate.* Max 9C (48F).

☐ **N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N W Scotland, N Ireland:** showers at first, wintry over the hills, dying out but further rain later. Wind west becoming southwest, moderate, increasing strong to gale. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, N E Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny or clear spells, a few showers, dying out later then cloud thickening from the west. Wind westerly fresh, later south to southwest. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook:** showers or some longer *spells of rain, with snow in Scotland.*

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

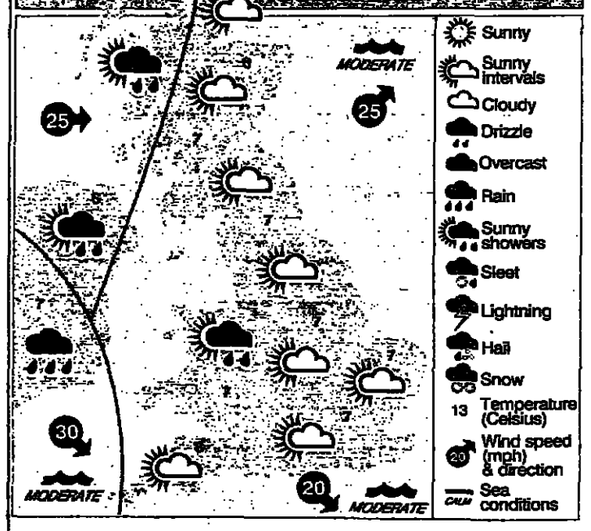
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	F	
Aberdeen	0.1	0.01	4	39	r	Liverpool	-	0.02	5	41	du
Anglesey	-	0.01	9	48	r	London	5.4	-	6	43	s
Ascona	-	0.04	5	41	r	Lowestoft	1.8	-	5	41	b
Aviemore	0.7	-	3	39	c	Manchester	-	0.11	5	41	r
Belfast	-	0.08	5	41	r	Minehead	-	0.30	9	48	d
Birmingham	-	0.08	4	39	sl	Morecambe	-	0.05	5	41	r
Bognor R	2.2	-	6	43	c	Newcastle	-	-	3	37	c
Bournem'th	-	0.11	7	45	sh	Newquay	-	0.23	10	50	c
Bristol	-	0.10	6	43	r	Nottingham	-	-	4	39	sn
Buxton	-	0.21	2	36	sn	Oxford	-	0.01	5	41	c
Cardiff	-	0.26	8	46	d	Penzance	-	0.36	11	52	r
Clacton	4.7	-	4	39	s	Plymouth	-	0.63	10	50	r
Cowyn Bay	0.2	-	7	45	c	Poole	-	0.13	6	43	r
Cromer	4.7	-	3	37	s	Prestatyn	-	-	7	45	b
Eastbourne	5.7	-	5	41	s	Ross-on-Wye	-	0.08	6	43	d
Edinburgh	0.2	0.04	5	41	r	Sandown	-	-	8	46	c
Eskdalemuir	-	0.19	3	36	sl	Scarboro'	-	-	2	36	c
Exmouth	-	0.23	9	48	d	Scilly Isles	-	0.14	11	52	r
Fishguard	-	0.09	8	46	d	Shrewsbury	-	0.03	5	41	d
Folkestone	3.8	-	4	39	b	Skegness	0.4	-	4	39	c
Glasgow	-	0.08	4	39	r	Southend	4.4	0.01	5	41	b
Greenock	2.2	0.11	7	45	sh	Southsea	-	-	6	43	c
Hastings	6.3	0.02	5	41	s	Stornoway	-	0.21	6	43	sh
Hayling I.	0.2	-	6	43	b	Swanage	-	0.06	6	43	sn
Hove	1.1	-	6	43	b	Teignmouth	-	0.29	9	48	r
Isle of Man	-	-	9	48	c	Tenby	-	0.33	10	50	r
Jersey	0.5	0.01	6	41	c	Torquay	-	0.27	9	48	d
Leeds	-	0.09	4	39	sl	Tynemouth	-	-	4	39	du
Lerwick	-	-	5	41	c	Weymouth	-	0.22	7	45	r
Littlehampton	2.9	-	6	43	b	These are Wednesday's figures					

ABROAD

Ajaccio	9	48	s	Corfu	8	46	f	Majorca	12	54	f	Rome	7	45	f
Alicante	16	64	s	Dublin	8	46	s	Malaga	16	61	s	Salzburg	-6	21	s
Alex dria	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	6	43	f	Malta	10	50	f	S F'ncso	11	52	c
Algiers	13	55	c	Faro	17	63	c	Melb'rne	23	73	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Amsterdm	3	37	s	Florence	4	39	s	Mexico C	16	61	c	S Paulo	22	72	r
Athens	13	55	s	Frankfurt	-5	23	s	Miami	26	79	f	Seoul	1	34	s
Bahrain	19	66	s	Funchal	18	64	c	Milan	4	39	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bangkok	28	82	s	Geneva	-6	21	sn	Montreal	-9	15	s	S'kholm	-3	27	s
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	16	61	s	Moscow	-3	28	c	Strasb'rg	-4	25	s
Barcelona	6	43	f	Helsinki	1	34	s	Munich	-6	16	f	Sydney	25	77	s
Basle	-3	27	s	Hong K	17	63	s	Nairobi	25	77	s	Tangier	14	57	c
Belgrade	0	32	f	Innsbruck	-6	21	c	Naples	8	46	s	Tel Aviv	16	61	s
Bonn	-5	23	s	Istanbul	8	46	r	N Delhi	17	63	s	Tenerife	20	68	f
Bermuda	19	66	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	N York	1	34	s	Tokyo	14	57	s
Biarritz	3	37	r	Jo'burg	26	79	s	Nice	7	45	s	Toronto	-11	12	s
Bordx'x	1	34	r	Karachi	25	77	s	Oslo	0	32	c	Tunis	10	50	c
Brussels	-2	28	s	L Palmas	21	70	f	Paris	-2	28	f	Valencia	14	57	f
Budapest	3	37	s	Le Touqt	-1	30	c	Peking	9	48	s	Vanc'ver	-2	28	s
B Aires	33	91	f	Lisbon	15	59	c	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	3	37	s
Cairo	15	59	s	Locarno	7	34	s	Prague	-3	16	s	Vienna	-4	25	sn
Chicago	-14	7	s	L Angels	12	54	r	Reykjavik	0	32	sn	Warsaw	-7	19	s
Christchurch	24	75	-	Luxemburg	-8	21	s	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wash'ton	2	36	s
Cologne	-6	21	s	Luxor	23	73	s	Rio de J	29	84	s	Wellington	17	63	f
Cphagn	-4	25	c	Madrid	9	48	c	Riyadh	32	73	s	Zurich	-7	19	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

WORLD TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low E will move northeastwards and start to fill. Low C will move east and fill. High A will remain slow moving with little change in central pressure

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4:41	7.21	5:17	7.23	Leith	5:54	5.31	6:09	5.36
Aberdeen	4.36	4.12	4.31	4.31	Liverpool	2:12	9.00	2:29	9.16
Avonmouth	10:26	12.94	10:45	12.37	Lowestoft	0:02	2.60	1:16	2.27
Belfast	2:17	3.23	2.30	3.51	Margate	2:57	4.72	3.31	4.54
Cardiff	10:16	11.66	10:31	11.10	Milford Haven	9:29	6.86	9:50	6.39
Devonport	9:02	5.41	9.25	5.04	Newquay	8:16	6.53	8:40	6.06
Dover	1:52	6.67	2:16	6.26	Oban	8:48	3.95	8:52	3.46
Dublin	2.47	3.91	2:56	4.20	Penzance	7.51	5.40	8:12	5.01
Falmouth	8:41	5.01	9:04	4.46	Portland	9:45	2.03	10:07	1.74
Glasgow	3.44	4.51	4.06	4.59	Portsmouth	2:28	4.79	2:39	4.55
Harwich	2:43	3.96	3:14	3.91	Shoreham	2:21	6.27	2:38	5.98
Holyhead	1.23	6.29	1.35	5.62	Southampton	1:46	4.50	1:59	4.36
Hull	9:32	7.01	9:36	7.48	Swansea	9:34	9.22	9:50	8.71
Ilfracombe	9.13	9.13	9:29	9.64	Tees	7:04	5.10	7 11	5.25
King's Lynn	9:23	6.16	9:40	6.40	Wilton-on-Nze	2:41	4.13	3:15	4.03

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INFOTECH 29, 30

Danger. Mouse play may damage your health



ARTS 31-33

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SPORT 34-40

Swinging into the record books at Rye

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — FRIDAY JANUARY 6 1995

Homeowners face double rates blow

By Robert Miller

MILLIONS of homeowners could have to pay more for their monthly endowment mortgage premiums as life companies report further cuts in their annual bonus rates for 1995.

Of Britain's ten million mortgage holders, more than 60 per cent have mortgages linked to endowment policies.

Homeowners are already braced for a further increase in the Bank of England's base rate, which would force mortgage lenders to put up their loan rates. The Halifax Building Society is expected to respond shortly to December's 0.5 per cent increase in the base rate. Such a move would come ahead of its annual review of monthly payments for 1.1 million of the society's 1.8 million mortgage holders.

Commercial Union yesterday became the latest to announce reductions in bonus rates across the board on its life and pensions policies "to reflect the continuing lower future inflation and investment returns".

The reversionary bonus rate on Commercial Union's traditional with-profits policies will fall during the year from 4 per cent to 3.5 per cent. Bonus rates on its unitised with-profits policies will be cut from 7.25 per cent to 7 per cent.

General Accident, which kicked off the 1995 declaration season earlier this week, announced bonus cuts on its conventional with-profits policies, which cover the company's mortgage business, from 4 per cent to 3.75 per cent. Friends Provident also announced cuts in its mortgage-linked endowment policies yesterday from £5% to £4.50% although it did maintain its regular bonus at £3% .

Reversionary bonuses are awarded annually and once granted cannot be taken away. Traditionally they have been calculated on the basis that they would be enough to pay off the mortgage at the end of the term and leave the terminal bonus, awarded at the end of the contract, as the icing on the cake.

That, however, is no longer the case, according to Charles Landa, insurance analyst at SGST, the stockbroker. He said: "In the light of falling bonuses policyholders should now be asking themselves whether reversionary bonuses on their own are enough to pay off the mortgage loan at the end of the term. And, if this year is as bad as last in investment terms, life companies will be forced to dip into their reserves if they wish to avoid cutting their terminal bonuses again."

Newton Scott, a director of Scottish Widows, which will announce its bonus rates early next month, said many life companies were having to make "more precipitous" bonus cuts now "because they held their hand on bonus rates for too long in their chase for market share. You can't defy gravity on bonus results. We took a decision to start cutting our bonus rates in 1991. The onus is now on policyholders to keep a close eye on whether there is going to be a shortfall in their final mortgage-linked endowment policy payout."

Mr Scott also believes that the insurance sector could see a fall in new business of between 10 and 15 per cent this year. New regulation, especially for independent financial advisers, will lead to fewer policies being sold. The rules which came into force on January 1 on the disclosure of commissions and other costs that are levied on life and pensions policies, will also affect new business. And the insurance sector is facing a tough battle to restore its battered image over the personal pensions misselling scandal, which could cost the industry as much as £2 billion.

Mr Scott said: "Life offices are clamping down on costs and squeezing margins as tightly as possible. The dilemma now is how much they are prepared to spend on acquiring new business. If they pay too much it will inevitably impact on the bottom line, which could lead to further bonus cuts. But at least it will force the industry to come up with better value and more simple products."

Ministers abandon controversial grant to Hualon

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

THE Government appears to have effectively abandoned the controversial grant to the £160 million textile plant planned by Hualon, the Taiwangroup, on the outskirts of Belfast.

A spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office said yesterday that none of the £61 million of public funds pledged to the project had been, or would be, disbursed until a legal challenge to it was resolved in the European Court.

The legal action, brought by the British textile industry, had been granted a hearing and was expected to take a year to 18 months, the spokesman said.

Serious doubts have persisted over the commercial and employment merits of the project. Oung Ta-ming, head of the Hualon group, and 33 of its executives, were last month indicted in Taipei on charges of share price manipulation and fraud.

The Government, while officially still backing the scheme, has kicked the project into the long grass by deciding to wait for the legal judgment on the project. By the time that the European Court rules, market conditions may well have deteriorated, along with Hualon's reputation.

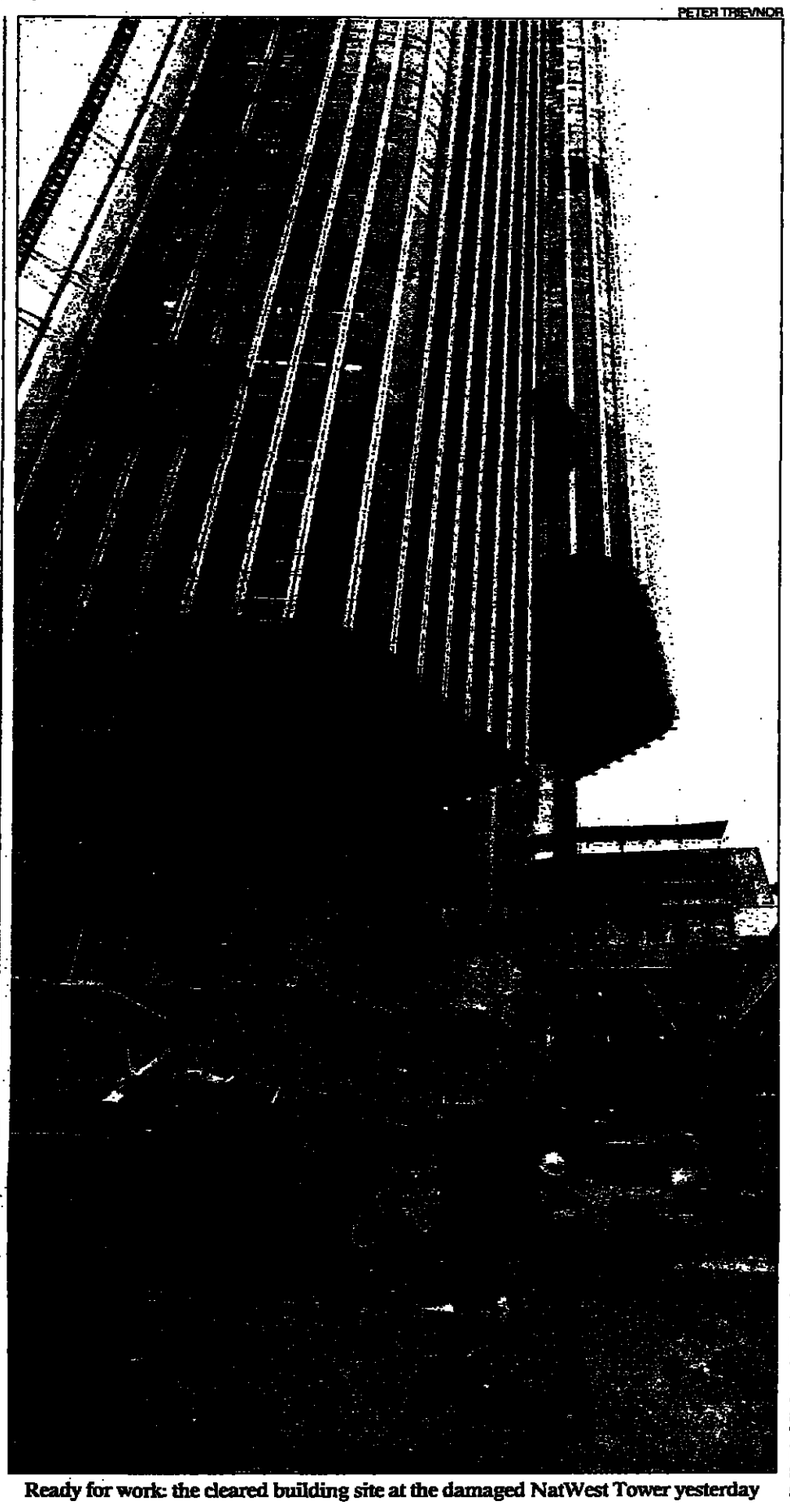
Continued government support for the scheme could then prove impossible for ministers, in spite of the 1,800 jobs that Hualon promised to create.

Daehwa Metal, a South Korean company, has announced that it is setting up a £7 million factory in Co Antrim that will employ 240 people by the end of 1997.

It will make components for video cassette recorders, serving Daewoo, a South Korean industrial group well established in Northern Ireland.

The Government will provide £3.4 million towards the Daehwa plant. Daewoo will take a 40 per cent stake with an investment of £2.8 million.

Name in lights, page 25



PETER TREVNOR

Ready for work: the cleared building site at the damaged NatWest Tower yesterday

NatWest Tower to rise again

By Robert Miller and Jon Ashworth

THE main refurbishment work on the 600ft NatWest Tower is due to begin next month — nearly two years after it was severely damaged by the Bishopsgate bomb in April 1993.

The building work, which includes replacing more than 3,000 windows, the equivalent of 12,000 square metres, will take a further two years to complete. NatWest will not reveal the total cost, but the final bill is expected to exceed £150 million.

A spokesman for the bank said yesterday: "Before the proper refurbishment work can begin, the "enabling work" has to be completed. This is being done at the moment and involves making the area safe, erecting scaffolding and installing hoists." The main contractor is John Laing Construction.

Immediately after the bombing there were fears that the City landmark, which was designed by Richard Seifert and opened by the Queen in 1980, was so badly damaged that it might have to be demolished.

It is understood, however, that the task of demolishing such an enormous structure, which was built with prestressed concrete, had never been undertaken before.

Even now that the refurbishment work is about to begin, NatWest has still to decide whether it will move its staff back into the building. At the time of the blast about 2,100 people worked in the tower.

NatWest said: "Staff will not be moving back into the building until early in 1997. At that time we will review the space requirement for bank staff in London."

The bank is also rebuilding a number of other sites around the 42-storey NatWest Tower in the heart of the City. No decision has yet been taken on how the extra office space will be used.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3032.3	(-19.3)
Yield	4.25%	
FT-SE A All share	1507.07	(-7.73)
Nikkei	19616.11	(-57.93)
New Yorlc		
Dow Jones	3853.62	(-4.03)*
S&P Composite	460.60	(-0.11)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 11/16%*	(7%)
Long Bond	85 25/32*	(35/2)
Yield	7.90%*	(7.85%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 27/32%	(6 29/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	100 5/16	(100-)

STERLING

New Yorlc		
$	1.5633*	(1.5605)
London:		
$	1.5631	(1.5611)
DM	2.4283	(2.4361)
FFr	8.3630	(8.3930)
SFr	2.0395	(2.0499)
Yen	157.83	(158.27)
£ Index	79.9	(80.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5523*	(1.5593)
FFr	5.3520*	(5.3650)
SFr	1.3035*	(1.3052)
Yen	100.96*	(101.38)
$ Index	63.3	(63.5)

Tokyo close Yen 100.93

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar) $16.40 ($16.20)

GOLD

London close $374.45 ($375.55)

* denotes midday trading price

Boots step out

Strong sales growth of bicycles, cosmetics and toiletries helped Boots to lift sales in its stores by 6.1 per cent in the third quarter, to the end of December. The news added weight to evidence that a broad spectrum of retailers fared well over the crucial Christmas selling period. Page 23

Hard landing

After three years of dire losses the five European regional aircraft makers are about to do something they should have done two decades ago — rationalise. America, the biggest market for regional jets, has only two makers of such planes. Page 25

Fimbra suspends school fees firm

By Robert Miller

CLAREMONT SAVILE, the private school fee planning specialist, was last night ordered to cease business by Fimbra, the regulator for independent financial advisers, for a serious breach of its rules.

Until a month ago the Claremont Savile school fee plan, which was endorsed by the Halifax Building Society, was recommended by the Independent Schools Information Service (Isis).

Fimbra said it had ordered the firm "to cease conducting and soliciting investment business as it appears to the association that the member has failed to maintain at all times sufficient financial resources in respect of its business to ensure that it is able to meet its liabilities as they fall due."

David Woodhead, a director of Isis, said: "We terminated our association with Claremont Savile about a month ago as a result of increasing concern over inadequate controls at various company branches around the country which had been franchised. The underlying school fees plans are not in jeopardy as the company did not handle client money."

Mr Woodhead added that Isis hoped to form a new link with another company in the near future.

Claremont Savile linked up with the National Westminster Bank in the mid-1980s to promote a School Fees Loan Plan. Some time later, this was superceded by a new School Fees Special Reserve Plan launched in conjunction with the Halifax. Some 7,000 people requested details of the Claremont Savile school fee plan last year.

The Halifax said: "If Claremont Savile has been suspended by Fimbra we would naturally want to know the details and the reasons for that suspension. In the light of that information we would review any business relationships."

Claremont Savile was unavailable for comment last night.

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BR chief moves to Sears



Reid: April switch

SIR Bob Reid, chairman of British Rail since 1990, is taking the helm at Sears, the shoes-to-sportswear retailing group whose interests include Selfridges in London. He succeeds Geoffrey Maitland Smith, who bows out after nine years as chairman (Jon Ashworth writes).

Sir Bob, 60, joins Sears in April, on the expiry of his contract with British Rail. He will become part-time chairman at the company's annual meeting in June.

Mr Maitland Smith, 61, joined Sears as a director in 1971 and was made chief executive in 1978. He became chairman in 1985, and has presided over a roller-coaster ride at the company. Fortunes have revived since Liam Strong was recruited from British Airways as chief executive three years ago. Loss-making subsidiaries have been sold and the group has made a respectable return to form. The shares closed down 1p at 108p.

Sir Bob took on the controversial British Rail post after five years as chairman and chief executive of Shell UK.

Track switch, page 25

Gas customers want rivals to be in control

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

CUSTOMERS of British Gas are applying to switch to rival suppliers at the rate of 72,500 a month.

Rejected applications to transfer are still running at 1,000 a week despite an improvement in the handling by TransCo, the British Gas pipelines company.

Although only businesses and some 65,000 of the largest household customers who use more than 2,500 therms a year are allowed to seek alternative sources of supply, the level of applications has doubled in the past year.

However, a director of TransCo rejected suggestions that British Gas has been blocking many people seeking to transfer.

Details of the level of transfer applications and rejections were released by TransCo after Norman Ellis, chief executive of Kinetica, a leading independent, said that too many large domestic consumers who applied to switch suppliers were being wrongly rejected on the grounds that their gas use did not exceed the competition threshold.

Chris Le Fevre, transportation services director, said that the proportion of applicants rejected had been running at 12 per cent a year ago, but this had now been reduced to 6 per cent. He said this reflected an improvement in the quality of information about applicants received from alternative suppliers. The row over impediments to those seeking alternative suppliers flared as British Gas accelerates its restructuring programme to prepare for the wider introduction of competition. But concern over the impact of the search for efficiency gains elsewhere in the business continues to mount. The Consumers' Association claimed that the introduction by British Gas of a five per cent discount for those who pay bills by direct debit may contravene the Gas Act. Ofgas believes it is legitimate because it reflects the savings available. However, British Gas reiterated its promise to introduce discounts for those who pay on time by other means.

North Sea fields output at seven-year high

By Martin Barrow and Carl Mortished

PRODUCTION from Britain's North Sea oilfields continued to surge in November, with output reaching a new seven-year high of more than 2.6 million barrels per day (bpd). As measured by the Royal Bank of Scotland Oil and Gas Index, it is the highest since January 1987, and provides an additional boost to Britain's buoyant oil revenues. Oil prices continued to be strong during the month, combined with a fall in the exchange rate of sterling against the dollar.

Overall, oil and gas revenues rose 8 per cent during the month to an average of £41.8 million per day. Sterling oil revenues rose to their highest level since November 1990 with a 7 per cent rise to £28.7 million.

News of the latest rise in output came as Amerada Hess, the US energy group, and its UK partner, Premier Consolidated Oilfields, announced the discovery of more oil in the Fife field. Mark Shea, energy economist at the Royal Bank, said: "The underlying trend in North Sea production shows continuing strong output growth, with average oil production for the three months to November being 20 per cent higher than the same period in 1993.

"Gas production also grew strongly and would have been even higher but for the effects of the mild weather, which has restricted heating demand for gas."

Both oil and gas output rose during November, with the Royal Bank gas index rising 9 per cent to 211.9. Because of relatively subdued growth in domestic demand for gas, average production is about 19 per cent lower than in November 1993. Output has increased as maintenance programmes involving shutdowns have come to an end and new fields have been brought on stream. During 1994, 10 new fields started to produce oil and have been working up to full capacity.

Average oil production rose more than 30,000 bpd to an average 2.66 million bpd. The major increase came from Shell's Tern field, where output rose 62,000 bpd after October's shutdown. Gas production averaged 7,201 million cubic feet per day, down 19 per cent, despite a 39 per cent rise in output from Morecambe fields of British Gas.

Amerada Hess and Premier Consolidated Oilfields hope to boost the output of their Fife field with the discovery of more oil four miles to the South-East, near the UK/Denmark median line.

Early indications are that the discovery could add a further 10,000 bpd to the 40,000-50,000 bpd production expected from Fife.

Boom year for lorries but quiet for cars

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders will today publish figures showing a strong resurgence in lorry sales during 1994, although the recovery in car markets remains subdued.

Sales of lorries over 3.5 tonnes in the United Kingdom are estimated by Leyland DAF, the manufacturer, to have risen 23 per cent to 44,500 vehicles, the biggest year-on-year rise recorded.

The company is predicting a total market of 50,000 to 55,000 lorries this year. The Anglo-Dutch consortium hopes to overtake the Italian/American Iveco Ford to become UK market leader.

The recovery in commercial vehicle sales has been gathering pace throughout the year. In a new year message to dealers, David Gill, managing director of Leyland DAF, says the recovery has been lead by sales to the construction sector. Demand for four-axle rigids, vehicles commonly used for moving earth and builders' rubble, doubled during 1994, he says.

Sales of tractor units in the UK market rose by a third, while demand for 7.5 tonners has also shown strong growth.

Leyland DAF has had a particularly good year, Mr Gill says. Sales of models imported from the company's Dutch parent, the 65, 75, 85 and 95 series, outstripped the market growth in their segments. Leyland Trucks, the group's British-owned supplier of light trucks, also had a good year. The 7.5 tonne 45 series, built at Leyland, Lancashire, took a 30 per cent share in a sector of the market, which is starting to show a stronger recovery.

By the final quarter of the year, Leyland DAF had lifted its market share to 19.5 per cent, from 15 per cent in the final months of 1993, Mr Gill said. "We anticipate being market leaders over six tonnes in 1994."

Leyland-DAF's forecast for 1994 was one of the most bullish. Rival predictions for 1995 will be unveiled today by Iveco-Ford, the market leader. But Mr Gill said he had confidence in his predictions. "In the second half of 1994, registrations have already been running at an annualised rate of over 50,000."

The upsurge has lead to a big increase in the penetration of imports in the UK market. November figures from the SMMT showed that importers had increased their share of the UK truck market from 42.9 per cent to 58.6 per cent in just 12 months. In November, Mercedes-Benz of Germany appeared to be challenging Leyland-DAF for second place in the market, while Scania of Sweden and Volvo, which manufactures in Britain, had also outperformed the market substantially.

ERF, the Cheshire specialist in heavy trucks, has also had a good year, with sales up almost 30 per cent in the 11 months to November to 2,335 vehicles.

Department of Transport figures, out yesterday, show a 23 per cent rise in registrations of goods vehicles in the 12 months to November 1994, to 40,500. November registrations were up 43 per cent to 4,600.

Registrations of cars rose by 7 per cent, in the 12 months to November, to 1.99 million. But growth tailed off as the year wore on. The number of new cars registered in November — 129,000 — was unchanged, year on year.

Pennington, page 23

Rover to create 300 jobs

By Our Industrial Correspondent

ROVER GROUP is to recruit an extra 300 workers to man a new £6 million engine plant to be built at its Land Rover subsidiary in Solihull, Warwickshire.

The factory, which will begin production in January 1996, forms part of Rover's strategy to concentrate production of diesel engines for both cars and Land Rovers at Solihull.

Production of all petrol engines, except the V8 produced for Land Rover Defender and Discovery models, will be concentrated at its small car plant at Longbridge, Birmingham.

The investment in new engine-building facilities is the latest phase in a steady expansion at Rover since its purchase by BMW of Germany from British Aerospace almost a year ago. Land Rover took on 1,300 people last spring to raise production of its Discovery model. Rover announced plans last October for 1,450 more jobs, at Longbridge, Solihull, and its body plant at Swindon, Wiltshire.

Further jobs are expected to be created in vehicle assembly operations at Solihull as Rover steps up production of its new Range Rover model. Production from the Land Rover plant rose 35 per cent in 1994, to 92,500 vehicles.



Chips with everything: Mike Alderson, chairman of Motorola Ltd, after announcing that his company had acquired DEC's semiconductor plant at South Queensferry, Edinburgh, which employs 500. Motorola employs 4,000 at East Kilbride, Strathclyde

Keep client base secret, say fund managers

By Sarah Bagnall

UK FUND managers are resisting pressure by banks and the Bank of England to disclose their customers' identities, claiming that in the vast number of cases it would be an administrative nightmare and would serve little use.

The banks want disclosure because of fears they are exposing themselves to risks that may result in significant financial loss.

According to the Bank of England, as from last year UK incorporated banks are required to aggregate their exposures to each counter-party under the EC Large Exposures Directive, which came into effect last year. Without knowing the identity of the counter-party, it is not possible to aggregate the exposure.

The directive limits a bank's exposure to any single party to 25 per cent of its capital. The minimum capital required for a UK incorporated bank is 5 million ecus (£3.9 million) and the limit may be easily breached by smaller banks.

Michael Robarts, at Flemings Investment Management, said that for the bulk of transactions disclosure would be fairly meaningless. Most transactions were done on behalf of a number of clients, with fund managers apportioning a deal across their client base. Disclosure would involve a massive amount of data, often involving hundreds of individual clients.

The fund management industry believes the banks' real concerns are that a counter-party does not have the power to enter into a transaction. Fund managers argue that there is no problem for straightforward security transactions as there is no risk for the brokers. The problem is in the derivatives and foreign exchange markets because of the long lag times before settlement. The British Bankers Association has set up a working party.

Swedes to control German paper firm

By Colin Narbrough, World Trade Correspondent

SCA, Sweden's second-biggest paper group, is to pay DM1.2 billion for a 60 per cent interest in PWA, Germany's largest forest products group.

The deal is one of the biggest European mergers in the industry for some time and requires approval by the competition authorities in Brussels. PWA shares are being acquired from Bayernwerk, part of the Viag utility group, and Bayerishe Hypotheken und Wecheselbank.

Combined turnover will be about SKr56 billion (£4.81 billion) and the two companies will together have a workforce of 35,000. SCA made clear that it sees considerable scope for streamlining.

SCA said that it had no plans to acquire 100 per cent of PWA. Europe's third-biggest tissues company, and would finance the purchase through existing credit facilities.

Under the deal, SCA will pay about 20 per cent above the market price for PWA, representing a p/e ratio of about 11, which industry analysts consider expensive.

Some analysts expect SCA to sell parts of the German company, and to unload stakes that it holds in the Swedish companies Modo and Industrivaarden. SCA denied that it had plans to dispose of any PWA units.

SCA shares rose by SKr2.5, to SKr128.5, on the PWA acquisition, with the Stockholm market taking the view that the deal, although potentially troublesome in the short term, would bring the Swedish company long-term benefits.

Bundesbank leaves key rates the same

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE Bundesbank yesterday left all its key interest rates unchanged, as the financial markets had expected.

The discount rate remains at 4.5 per cent and the Lombard rate stays at 6 per cent. These levels have been in place since May last year. The German central bank also said that its key money market repurchase rate would remain unchanged at 4.85 per cent, the rate which has prevailed since last July.

The markets showed little reaction to yesterday's news although the mood remains somewhat unsettled because there is still uncertainty about whether the next move in German rates may be upwards as the Bundesbank eventually follows monetary tightening in the United States and Britain, among others.

Preliminary German gross domestic product data for 1994 are due to be released on January 12, one reference point for the German bond market. Another is today's release of US non-farm payrolls, a key indicator for watchers of interest rate policy from the US Federal Reserve.

Theo Waigel, German Finance Minister, said yesterday that the Government planned tax cuts totalling DM20 billion in 1996 and that the Solidarity Tax, a 7.5 per cent surcharge on income tax bills introduced to pay for German unification, could start to be scaled back in 1997. This is a year earlier than most Germans had been led to expect.

Business Roundup

France to sell Seita after 300 years

FRANCE plans to sell Seita, the state tobacco monopoly, in the next few weeks, a government source said yesterday after a decree was issued setting the privatisation in motion. The company is best known for the pungent Gauloises and Gitanes cigarettes that have become icons of the Gallic look, as filterless props to a host of emblematic figures from singer Edith Piaf to philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre.

Edmond Alphandéry, the Economy Minister, will now formally ask the Privatisation Commission to value the firm, a process that should take about a fortnight. Barring accidents, such as a sharp drop in the stock market, Seita, the Societe Nationale d'Exploitation Industrielle des Tabacs et Allumettes, should go on sale some time after that, ending 300 years of state ownership of the tobacco business that began under Louis XIV, when smoking was a novel habit in Europe. The Government's intention is to privatise it before the presidential election begins on April 23.

C&W joint venture

CABLE AND WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, has formed a joint venture with Schlumberger, the American oil services company, to set up a worldwide communications and information system for the oil and gas industry. The 50-50 venture, called Omnes, will focus on developing and commercialising SINet, Schlumberger's private information network. Omnes, to be based in Houston, Texas, will offer tailor-made communications services.

Wellcome for Keswick

SIMON KESWICK, the Trafalgar House chairman, has been appointed as a non-executive of Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group. John Robb, the Wellcome chairman, said: "Mr Keswick has worked extensively in the Far East with the Jardine Matheson group of companies for more than 20 years. His business experience will be invaluable to Wellcome in pursuing its determination to extend its global coverage, particularly in Japan and South-East Asia." Mr Keswick is also a non-executive director of Hanson.

Good year for ferries

BOTH P&O European ferries and Stena Sealink released figures showing large increases in passengers in the last full year for cross-Channel ferry firms to operate without competition from the Tunnel. P&O's Dover-Calais passenger numbers rose 18 per cent to almost 10.55 million last year. Stena Sealink's Dover-Calais service saw a 16 per cent rise to seven million. P&O said: "There's going to be more competition lying ahead, but we are the established market leaders. We've just enjoyed our fifth successive record year."

Bids inquiry in Japan

JAPAN'S Fair Trade Commission (FTC) is investigating alleged bid rigging by several electronics companies for giant stadium screen orders placed by local governments. An FTC spokesman said the inquiry was launched in 1993 and was continuing. Mitsubishi, Matsushita and Sony, the leading electronics companies, said they had been investigated by the FTC. The anti-monopoly watchdog said last month it had been investigating possible bid rigging by nine electronics firms of contracts for sewage works projects.

Aircraft tenders invited

THE Ministry of Defence yesterday issued an invitation for companies to tender for a £1 billion contract to replace or refurbish the 25-strong fleet of maritime patrol aircraft operated by the Royal Air Force. British Aerospace is expected to offer to re-equip the existing Nimrod aircraft, but may also be invited to propose a variant of the projected pan-European Future Large Aircraft, FLA. Lockheed of America is expected to offer its P3 Orion, while Dassault may offer a French aircraft for the role.

Stakes taken in STAR

STAR TV said Bertelsmann AG's BMG Entertainment, Thorn EMI's EMI Music, Sony Corp's Sony Pictures Entertainment and Time Warner Inc's Warner Music Group have taken equity stakes in STAR's music channel, Channel V. The nonstop pop video channel was launched last May. No details of the size or value of the stakes were announced. Channel V will continue to be independently managed from Hong Kong, said STAR, a subsidiary of The News Corporation, the ultimate owner of *The Times*.

HNV offer unconditional

HNV Acquisition yesterday said its common share offer for Heron International NV was now uncoditional and that as a consequence the bank debt offers and senior and junior bond proposals were also unconditional. Settlement of the offer is due on January 26. Under the common offer, acceptances have been received representing 95.4 per cent of common shares in issue. The period for lodging acceptances under the common offer is extended until 10am Brussels/Luxembourg time on January 20. Pennington, page 23

More subscribe to Sky

BSKYB, the newly floated satellite broadcasting group, 40 per cent owned by News International, publisher of *The Times*, announced yesterday that Sky Television had added a net 180,000 direct to home subscribers in the last three months of 1994, making a total of 2.82 million.

☐ Tim Ovington has been appointed director (designate) of human resources of News International Newspapers. He joins the group from MAI, the media and financial services conglomerate, where he was group personnel director.

THE TIMES
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READERS of *The Times* are offered two management videos for the price of one. Produced by Tom Peters, *Beyond Hierarchy* and *Corporate Culture* are normally priced at £49 each – but you can have both for £49, including post and packaging. To order, fill in the form below.

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Church's prepares for nautical test

By Jon Ashworth



John Church, left, and Tony Gledhill at the Boat Show

CHURCH & Company, makers of classic English gentlemen's shoes, is taking to the high seas. The company has stepped in with a £20,000 donation to help a team of disabled sailors take part in the 1996 BT Global Challenge round-the-world yacht race

The money goes to the Time & Tide Trust, a charity, which has entered a yacht to be crewed entirely by disabled yachtsmen and women. Church's will also provide special footwear for the crew.

Church's joins BT, which has donated £75,000 towards the yacht *Time and Tide*. The BT donation comes from the company's Community Programme, which helps people with disabilities.

Leading sponsors to the challenge include Courtaulds, the yacht paints manufacturer, which is providing £1 million over three years. The company is to supply coatings for all 15 identical 67-ft yachts in the race, including its own entry, *Courtaulds International*.

John Church, chairman of Church's, and Tony Gledhill, marketing director, unveiled details of their sponsorship at the London International Boat Show yesterday. Church's launched a range of boat shoes early last year, and is keen to see how they stand up to "real" sailing conditions. Mr Gledhill said: "The opportunity to work closely with the people who will actually be wearing our boat shoes under such extreme conditions is vital to our ongoing research."

The first two *Time and Tide* crew members were at Earls Court yesterday to see the cheques handed over. Stuart Boreham has mild cerebral palsy, and Paul Hebblethwaite has been deaf since birth. The pair have learned to communicate with each other using sign language, and have started training.

The 15 yachts in the challenge set out from Southampton in September 1996. The 30,000-mile race, organised by Chay Blyth, the master round-the-world yachtsman, sees competitors attempt to circumnavigate the globe against the prevailing winds and currents. The race is expected to last ten months.

Demand for Church's boat shoes has grown strongly since the Northampton company decided to add to its more traditional line of wares. Sales now account for about 7 per cent of Church's total turnover.

Tourist Rates

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.97
Austria Sch	18.09	16.59
Belgium Fr	53.03	48.73
Canada $	2.289	2.129
Cyprus Cyp£	0.784	0.729
Denmark Kr	10.15	9.35
Finland Mkk	8.03	7.33
France Fr	8.86	8.16
Germany Dm	2.56	2.37
Greece Dr	398.00	373.00
Hong Kong $	12.73	11.73
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Italy Lira	2635.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	172.00	156.00
Malta	0.619	0.564
Netherlds Gld	2.873	2.643
Norway Kr	11.19	10.39
Portugal Esc	260.50	242.00
S Africa Rd	ref	5.30
Spain Pta	214.00	200.00
Sweden Kr	12.25	11.45
Switzerland Fr	2.17	1.99
Turkey Lira	refer	61117.0
USA $	1.669	1.529

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

☐ Familiar perils of devaluation ☐ Recovery reaches the truck market ☐ Better days for Gerald Ronson

Down Mexico's private way

☐ YOU think privatisation is near the end of the road? That is the new beginning, as Guillermo Ortiz, Mexico's beleaguered new finance minister, revealed in New York yesterday. In its desperate attempts to recover financial credibility, the Mexican State plans to auction much, if not all, of its modern road network. True, most of Britain's motorways are unsaleable without tolls. But road-pricing would gradually prepare the way for Britain to go down Mexico way.

Matters are more urgent there. The $1.5 billion ministers reckon its roads are worth is part of a plan to raise up to $14.5 billion from new privatisations this year to help to balance the Budget. The bulk will come, more conventionally, from power stations, petrochemcial plants and its satellite system. In Mexico, the state oil company, so far not on the list, is more sacrosanct than roads, to the disgust of the angry American fund managers Mr Ortiz was trying to soft-soap at the Hotel Pierre.

They had poured money into the darling of the IMF school of reform and new member Nafta. Then a botched pre-Christmas devaluation brought free fall, taking the peso down more than a third against the dollar. Mexico's stock market ended 1994 as the world's second worst performer when other Latin American bourses won most of the emerging market Oscars.

American investors reckoned, as optimists tend to, that they could double their interest income compared with domestic bonds and safely pocket the surplus even if the peso's peg against the dollar slipped a little. But only the attraction of those high rates sustained the peso aganist a vast trade gap. As US rates crept up, something had to give. Much of the investment was in dollar-denominated debt, but that did not help. After devaluation, borrowers might not be able to meet payments.

To make matters worse, devaluation was clumsily blamed on temporary political problems — a peasant rebellion in the South — rather than being sold as part of a prepared plan to free Mexico from a straitjacket of high interest rates, low growth and pressured living standards. Mexico had bound itself up by committing itself to a strong, semi-fixed, peso to anchor anti-inflation policies when its monetary policy had no credibility.

Sounds familiar? Britain had got itself into a similar bind in 1992, eventually rattling the entire European exchange-rate mechanism. Mexico's version might be seen as an initiation rite to mark its entry into the OECD, the club of developed industrial nations. Yet the lesson of Britain's devaluation was that it allowed the economy to grow faster. At the IMF, where Mexico is asking for funds to back dollar debt repayments, it is still treated as a naughty developing country. The austerity package will cut projected 1995 growth from 4 to 1.5 per cent, with further cuts in real wages. A good prospect for new investors in bonds. Not so good for Mexicans.



Repaired, and back on the road

☐ BRITAIN'S lorry market, one of the worst casualties of recession, is at last speeding along the road to recovery. Registrations last year are likely to show the biggest increase on record, to around 44,500 vehicles. Sales are now running at an annual rate of around 50,000.

This surge in demand, the strongest on record, provides compelling evidence of the strength of recovery in Britain's industrial heartland. Some companies may well have been taking advantage of temporary tax relief to replace worn out vehicles. But the uneven pattern of purchases suggests some sectors of industry are investing in additional capacity.

The biggest growth in demand for trucks has developed in the construction sector, where firms are buying new vehicles to carry soil and rubble. Sales of tractor units, used to haul manufactured goods in bulk over long distances, have also been strong. Sales of light trucks, more commonly purchased by the service sector and by small businesses, are only now beginning to pick up. An upturn is also visible in the van market. If commercial vehicle sales are any guide, Britain's national economic recovery is, at last, becoming more general and more solid.

The British truck industry today is, however, very different to the one that crashed into recession four years ago. The collapse of AWD and the Anglo-Dutch truck company Leyland DAF, two years ago, created a window of opportunity which the big, integrated European truck builders, Mercedes Benz, Volvo, Scania and Iveco have exploited.

Sales of imports have risen sharply. The growth of exports has not kept pace. This is partly a reflection of the uneven market recovery. With the honourable exception of ERF, most of Britain's truck-building capacity is at the lighter end of the market, below 17 tonnes.

Both Leyland Trucks, the Lancashire assembler, and Iveco Ford, at Langley, Bucks, should see exports rise faster once continental countries catch up with Britain's progress. Yet, however welcome the recovery, one ghost will remain. Thirty years of stop-go economic cycles have left this important industry a mere shadow of its former self.

Heron flies again

☐ NEWS that HNV Acquisition's £142 million takeover bid has gone unconditional ushers in a new era for Heron International, the property enterprise indelibly associated with Gerald Ronson.

Heron's battle to stave off receivership has raged, in various parlours, for the best part of three years. Debts, in the spring of 1992, peaked at £1.4 billion. In the wake of the bid, mounted by a consortium of US investors, bank debt will emerge at between £160 million and £180 million, with net assets estimated at £220 million.

The bid, spearheaded by Steven Green, the Samsonite chief with a penchant for turnround situations, means that Heron is once again viable. Unfortunately, the initial reconstruction, completed in the autumn of 1993, proved flawed, with Heron Corporation unable to pass funds up to Heron International. City advisers such as KPMG, Price Waterhouse, UBS and Allen & Overy, along with the creditor banks, should take a bow. This exercise is reputed to have cost more than £30 million in fees. All in all, the Heron "reconstruction," which gave way to the Heron "acquisition", has seen the thick end of £60 million wing its way in the direction of the City.

Ronson, responsible for Heron's over-expansion, has won a feather, not least for sheer resolve. An unsung hero is Basil Vasiliou, the Wall Street debt trader who encouraged Green to alight on Heron as a European property vehicle. Expect HNVA, with a near-80 per cent stake, to float Heron within a three-year time span.

Wrong kind of chair

☐ SEARS, dynamic creation of roguish Charlie Clore, has become the latest stagnant blue chip to turn to ranks of the great, good and bloodied to recruit its new non-executive chairman. Sir Bob Reid, veteran of Shell and last of the old British Rail chairmen, may know nothing about retailing, and may never have run a quoted company before, but he has certainly picked up a fine stock of excuses.

Boots sees sales rise 6.1% in Christmas quarter

BY SARAH BAGNALL

STRONG sales growth of bicycles, cosmetics and toiletries helped Boots to lift sales in its stores by 6.1 per cent in its third quarter, to the end of December.

The news added weight to evidence that a broad spectrum of retailers fared well over the Christmas period.

Sir James Blyth, chief executive, said: "This is an excellent result in a fragile retail market. December more than made up for the extremely sluggish October and November."

The results were broadly in line with market forecasts, and the shares fell 3p to 494p.

All but one of the Boots retail businesses produced increases in underlying sales in the quarter. The exception was Childrens World, the out-of-town children's toys and clothing chain, whose like-for-like sales fell 1.8 per cent. The company said that this was because the fashion area was hit by the mild weather.

The best performance was recorded by Boots Opticians, which lifted underlying sales by 5.6 per cent. The business benefited from heavier advertising and the new, larger practices within Boots the Chemist stores.

Like-for-like sales at the company's largest operation, Boots the Chemist rose by 4.1 per cent, helped by increases in sales of cosmetics and toiletries and in dispensing of more than 10 per cent. Some analysts had been looking for underlying increases of about 4.5 per cent.

Sales of over-the-counter healthcare rose by only 1.7 per cent because of strong sales growth in the last quarter of 1993 arising from influenza.

Boots said that the good result was achieved against a background of a near half percentage point fall in price inflation to 1.7 per cent.

Even Do It All, the DIY chain jointly owned by WH Smith and Boots, lifted underlying sales by 3.8 per cent. This reflected last year's store closures, which resulted in actual sales falling 2.7 per cent.

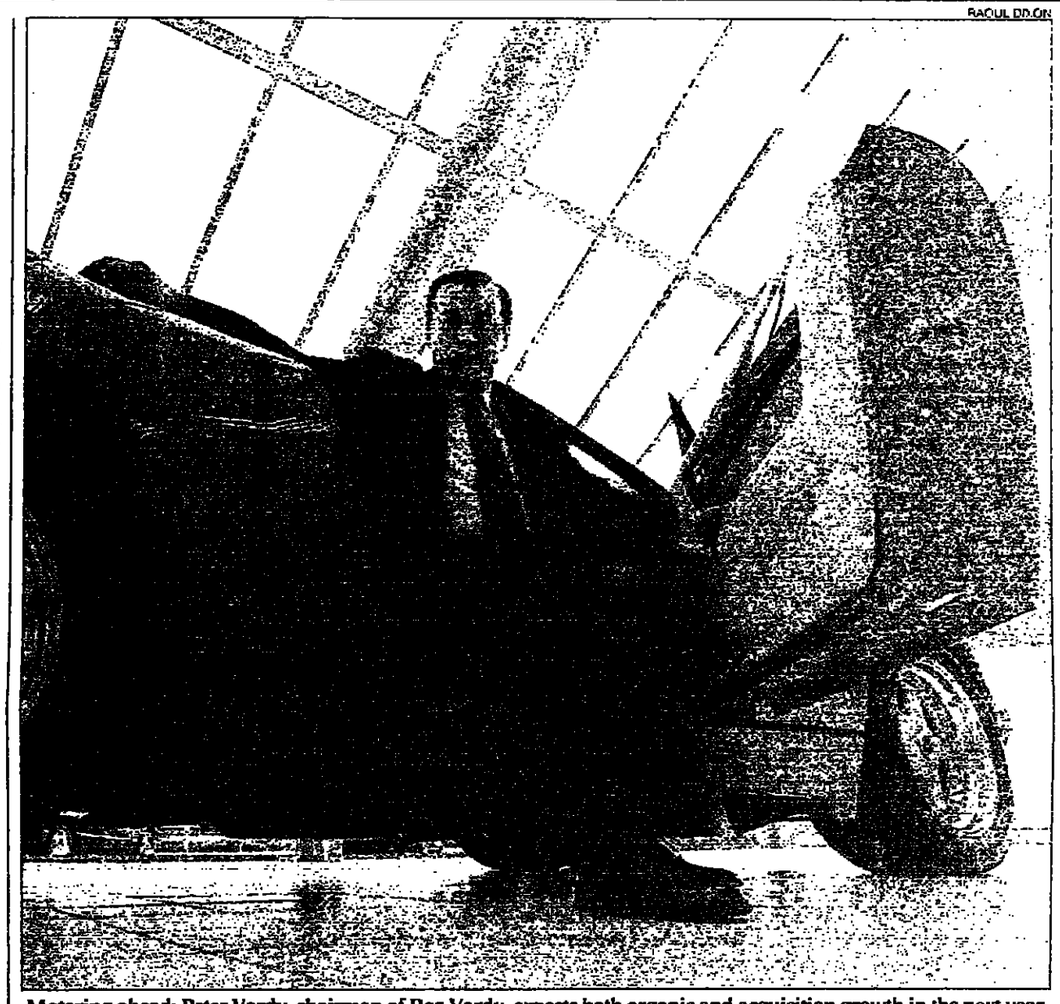
A sharp rise in sales of bicycles and bicycle accessories of 15 per cent helped Halfords to lift underlying sales by 4.6 per cent. However, the mild weather dented sales of car products such as batteries. AG Stanley lifted underlying sales by 3.6 per cent.

☐ Christmas trading also boosted William Morrison Group, the supermarket company. In the five weeks to January 1, sales were 16.8 per cent up on the same period last year. Of this increase, 11.9 per cent came from new stores. The balance of 4.9 per cent was an "extremely encouraging" like-for-like performance by stores opened before December 1993. The shares, however, eased 1p to 139p.

The strongest like-for-like rises were in produce, non-food and petrol sales, but, for the second year running, sales of wines and spirits and tobacco were "somewhat disappointing".

"Sales in the week before Christmas were very strong and all previous records were easily beaten," the company said. "Despite this we believe we catered for this extremely well, being able to satisfy the demands of all our customers without being left with a large overhang of seasonal merchandise."

Tempus, page 24



RAQUEL DIDON

Motoring ahead: Peter Vardy, chairman of Reg Vardy, expects both organic and acquisition growth in the next year

Reg Vardy surges in first half

BY OUR CITY NEWS EDITOR

PROFITS at Reg Vardy, the Sunderland motor dealer, surged in the first half in spite of industry-wide disappointment at M-registration sales.

In the six months to October 31, profits rose 43 per cent to £5.03 million from £3.5 million. Excluding the impact of property disposals, profits rose by 69 per cent.

Earnings rose to 7.5p a share from 5.3p. The interim dividend is increased to 2p a share from 1.4p, payable on April 28, partly to rebalance the distribution of dividends more evenly between the first half and the year-end. The shares rose 14p to 166p.

The number of vehicles sold by Vardy increased 28 per cent to 21,118. The volume franchises sold a record number of vehicles but relied heavily on used-car sales, which rose 37 per cent.

Vardy's specialist division almost doubled pre-tax profits, with Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Jaguar and Alfa Romeo franchises. New models from Jaguar and Aston Martin are expected to lift demand in the second half.

Peter Vardy, chairman, said: "We anticipate that there will be more opportunities for the group to grow both organically and by acquisition during the next calender year."

Tempus, page 24

Seagram agrees Dole juice deal

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

SEAGRAM Co, the American drinks group, has agreed to buy Dole Food Co Inc's fruit juice business for $285 million.

The Dole operations that Seagram proposes to buy have annual sales of $320 million and include fruit juices marketed in the United States under the Dole, Juice Bowl and Looza trademarks; the Fruvita, Dole, Juice Bowl and Looza brands in Europe; and Dole fruit juices in Asia.

Seagram will also acquire manufacturing capabilities in the United States and Europe, as well as interests in joint ventures in Japan and China.

The purchase does not include Dole's sought-after canned pineapple juice business, but there is a long-term supply contract for pineapple juice concentrate from Dole for the blended pineapple juice drinks that Seagram plans to acquire.

Seagram hopes that the acquisition will strengthen its Tropicana fruit juice business, whose annual sales are about $1.5 billion, by adding a new brand name and by expanding its manufacturing capabilities.

David Murdock, Dole's chief executive, said that the company is currently reviewing "all aspects of all its businesses with the intent of the sale or distribution of certain assets of the company".

Dole's businesses include food production and distribution, real estate development and resorts. Mr Murdock's strategy is to split up its real estate and food operations. An earlier plan to dispose of the food operations was aborted in 1990.

Seagram is involved in the wines and spirits market and has a stake in Dupont de Nemours, the US chemicals company, and Time Warner, the entertainment combine.

Manweb discounts merger rumours

BY ERIC REGULY

MANWEB and Welsh Water yesterday played down speculation that they were considering a merger designed to help to make them proof against takeover.

However, analysts said they would be surprised if Manweb had not discussed the possibility informally with Welsh Water. Since Trafalgar House's £1.2 billion bid for Northern Electric, all the regional electricity companies fear for their independence.

A Welsh Water spokeswoman said the company does not comment on market speculation. Howard Lee, a Manweb spokesman, said he was not aware of any discussions between the companies. "This is the market looking for a rumour to put around," he said.

Kevin Lapwood, an analyst with Smith New Court Securities, said there is no doubt that Manweb wants to build a suit of armour. Its takeover fears undoubtedly will grow if the Government does not refer Trafalgar's bid for Northern Electric to the Monopolies Commission.

Mr Lapwood said Manweb shareholders would not encourage a merger with Welsh Water because it would eliminate a hefty takeover premium from an outside bidder. "They want someone like Trafalgar House to come along and offer them £10 a share," he said.

If Manweb goes after a water utility, Welsh Water is the logical choice. Their billing and customer services departments share office space in North Wales, and further commercial links have been discussed.

Welsh Water shares rose 1p to 639p. Manweb fell 12p to 860p.

Tempus, page 24

Lehman boosted by cost-cutting



Fuld: positions held

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN NEW YORK

LEHMAN BROTHERS, the US investment house, reported better-than-expected fourth quarter revenues yesterday of $708 million, or 32 cents a share, against $899 million and 97 cents a share for the previous year's quarter.

The company, spun off by American Express last May, said it had reduced its non-interest expenses by 13 per cent, and its payroll by 900 employees, by the end of the year. Analysts had expected revenues of 23 cents a share, and hailed the result as a surprise.

Duff and Phelps, the Chicago credit rating company, assigned a single A senior debt rating and said Lehman's global securities investment banking market share was strong, particularly in its fixed income underwriting, and merger and acquisition advisory businesses. It also praised Lehman's cost-cutting programme.

"Since the May 1994 spin-off from American Express Company, Lehman Brothers management has embarked on a business strategy which capitalises on the fundamental strengths of the organisation," Duff and Phelps said. "Lehman Brothers has also maintained well-established risk management controls and broadened its product line to obtain a greater share of its clients' deal flow."

In spite of the cost-cutting and difficult business environment that precipitated the expense cutting, Richard Fuld Jr, Lehman's chairman and chief executive, said that the firm had maintained its franchise positions in core origination, trading and advisory businesses.

During 1994, I announced that, as part of the medium to long-term strategy of the Group, Colonial will demutualise and become a listed company.

After 120 years of successful growth, I believe that demutualisation is most appropriate for Colonial as it positions itself in the rapidly changing global finance industry.

I am now pleased to report that we have commenced investigations on the various options available to achieve demutualisation.

Last week, Colonial successfully completed the purchase of the State Bank of New South Wales.

This purchase is a significant step towards positioning the Colonial Group into the future.

Consistent with our established demutualisation strategy, with this purchase comes a specific requirement, under Australia's Banks (Shareholdings) Act, 1972, to establish a diversified shareholding - by December 1998.

This time-frame is compatible with our corporate strategies.

Demutualisation is a substantial task. When we have developed our proposals and are closer to the time of formally seeking member approval, I will make further announcements.

Peter J. Smedley, Managing Director.

The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society Limited (incorporated in Australia) A.C.N. 004 021 809.

هكذا في الأصل

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Property shares fall as UBS downgrades sector

THE property sector came under the hammer as one leading securities house decided that the recovery still appears as far off as ever. UBS yesterday took its red pencil to most of the leaders in the sector as it began downgrading their asset values.

Hammerson, down 9p at 334p, and MEPC, 4p off at 370p, have become the first victims on its hit list and others are expected to follow. At the same time, the broker has issued sell recommendations on **Land Securities**, 6p lower at 589p, and **Great Portland**, 2p easier at 173p.

But it is MEPC that looks the most vulnerable, with brokers predicting that the company is also on the verge of losing its status as a constituent of the top 100 companies. Last month, MEPC was holding its own in 97th position in the hit parade in terms of capitalisation. Since then, it has slipped to 102 and could drop off the end when the number of constituents are next recalculated before the end of March.

Share prices generally continued heading south in the wake of the overnight setback on Wall Street. In spite of further losses in resumed trading on Wall Street, the FT-SE 100 index managed to close off the bottom but was still nursing a fall of 19.3 at 3,032.3 by the close. Trading conditions remained thin with just 436 million shares traded.

The retailers appear to have enjoyed a good run-up to Christmas judging by the positive trading statements already issued. **Next**, steady at 255p, slipped out an encouraging statement late on Wednesday — too late to allow the share price to take advantage. The group reported a 35 per cent rise in sales of its Next Directory, with its retail arm 17 per cent ahead.

Boots also reported a 6.1 per cent increase in its retail operations during the third quarter, helped by a strong run-up to the festive season, which offset a sluggish time during October and November. With the shares going ex-dividend, the price ended 3p cheaper at 494p.

United Biscuits fell 6p to 317p amid talk of a number of profit downgradings. The group will be meeting a number of brokers during the next few weeks and the message is likely to read that the going remains tough. Elsewhere in food, Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker, reiterated its buy stance on **Hillsdown**, steady at 178p. **Booker** was unchanged at 392p and **Tate & Lyle** 1p cheaper at 414p.

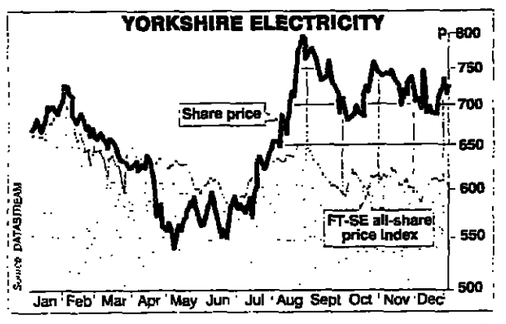
Yorkshire Electricity bucked the trend, adding 3p at 730p after being awarded double "AA" ratings by both the Standard and Poor's and Moody's debt-rating agencies.



P&O's share slide slowed on news of passenger increases

This follows the group's decision to launch a £200 million, 25-year Eurosterling bond. The bond is being issued at a fixed offer price of 98.94 per cent and yielding 60 basis points over the Treasury 8¾ per cent 2017 gilt to yield 9.16 per cent.

P&O went some way to halting this week's slide in the share price, prompted by fears that Eurotunnel may have started to gain the upper hand in the battle for market share of the Dover/Calais cross-Channel ferry services. The company says that the total number of passengers carried last year rose 17 per cent to almost 14 million, with the Dover/Calais route growing 18 per cent to 10.55 million. A 25 per cent increase in the number of vehicles carried on this route, to almost 2 million, was also reported. P&O touched 587p before ending the session 7p lower at 589p, for a two-day fall of 22p. Also on the transport front, **British Airways** advanced 4p to 365p after announcing that its passenger load factor had grown 2.6 per cent to 67.9 per cent during December. Premium traffic was again up, but growing at a slower rate.



Newcomer **BSkyB** failed to respond to news of a sharp increase in subscribers during the final quarter of last year. Instead, the price finished 10p lower at 245½p as Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, reiterated its sell recommendation. The shares were floated at 256p last month, valuing the company at £4.4 billion. Henderson calculates the company's worth at only £2.6 billion, and nearer 200p a share.

A total of 180,000 new subscribers were linked up in the final quarter, and of this number, 70 per cent took all Sky's premium channels, paying £22.99 a month. A record number of 37,241 subscribers were signed up in the week before Christmas, bringing the total number to 2.82 million. There was a drop in the number of cancellations.

Stock shortages saw **Aromascan** touch 75p before ending the day all-square at 73½p. Earlier this week, **Equitable Life** picked up 400,000 shares, lifting its stake just above 5 per cent.

Running your own company beats playing tennis for a living, as David Lloyd is quickly discovering these days. Full-year figures from his **David Lloyd Leisure** group showed pre-tax profits climbing 35 per cent to £7.6 million. **Wembley**, the debt-laden leisure group, was unmoved at 5½p after denying reports it was in talks with the Premier League over a £100 million takeover of Wembley Stadium, its flagship.

☐ **GILT-EDGED**: Gilts ended the day nursing small losses after seeing the German bund slip below its recognised resistance level. With the Bundesbank choosing to peg German interest rates at current levels, the falls were limited. Most City institutions chose to bide their time and await the outcome of today's US employment numbers.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt slipped £3/16 to £100¾, in modest turnover, which saw 34,000 contracts completed.

At the longer end of the cash market, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 fell 1/16 to £103½, while in shorts Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was a easier at £102⅞.

☐ **NEW YORK**: On Wall Street, blue chips were lower at midday following a sell-off at the long end of the bond market. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 4.03 points at 3,953.62.

National Westminster Bank finished 8p lower at 494p on turnover of almost four million shares. Traders said the shares were spooked by talk of a profits downgrading. UBS, the broker, is believed to have cut its pre-tax estimate for 1994 by £300 million to £1.6 billion and for this year from £1.92 billion to £1.88 billion.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3953.62 (-4.03)
S&P Composite 460.60 (-0.11)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 19616.11 (-67.93)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 7919.35 (+31.37)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 414.68 (+2.70)

Sydney:
AO 1869.5 (-16.7)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2062.48 (-9.78)

Singapore:
Straits 2231.68 (+12.46)

Brussels:
General 7206.65 (-0.07)

Paris:
CAC-40 1871.53 (-30.26)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 649.70 (-3.60)

London:

FT 30	2331.9 (-15.5)
FT 100	3032.3 (-19.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	3473.3 (-8.8)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1328.95 (-9.00)
FT A All-Share	1507.09 (-7.73)
FT Non Financials	1632.21 (-8.00)
FT Gold Mines	234.1 (-2.5)
FT Fixed Interest	109.35 (-0.10)
FT Govt Secs	90.81 (+0.01)
Bargains	17098
SEAQ Volume	436.1m
USM (Datastream)	149.26 (-0.21)
US$	1.5635 (+0.0013)
German Mark	2.4287 (+0.0072)
Exchange Index	79.9 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
ECU	1.2732
SDR	1.0747
RPI 145.3 Nov (2.6%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Asset Mngmt Inv (100)	98	...
BSkyB	245½	-10
British Ass Gth	63	...
Clydeport	168	...
Euclidian (100)	97	...
Fidelity Sp Val	91	-1
Fidelity Sp Val W	30	+1
First Russ Fls ($10)	618	-2
Fleming Nat Res (100)	92	...
For & Col Emrg C (100)	98½	-2
Grtmre Mro Ind (500)	508	...
Hill Hire	102	...
Hydro Int (80)	83	...
Innovative Techs (120)	123	...
Investors Capital	89½	- ½
Invstrs Cap Inc An	37½	...
Kiln Capital (100)	100	...
Leg & Gen Rec (100)	98	-1
MICE Group (3)	3	- ¼
Matheson Lyd IT (100)	85	...
Murray Emrg Ec (100)	90	-2
Pentex Oil	125	...
RAP Group	138	...
RM (175)	206	-1
Residential Prop	103	+2
SeaPerfect (120)	128	...
TeleWest Comm (182)	169	+1
Wellington Under (100)	102	...
Woodchester Uts	123	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

MY n/p (53)	¼	...
OMI n/p (37)	2	...
Powell Duffryn n/p (440)	51	-2
Tomkys Lels n/p (10)	½	...
Trio n/p (25)	½	...
Verity n/p (7½)	¼	...
Wlkr Grnbnk n/p (90)	7	-2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Abbey 150p (+10p)
Reg Vardy 166p (+14p)

FALLS:
Whitbread 551p (-13p)
A Goner 523p (-10p)
Pearson 543p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS

Water-cooled

THE utilities sectors has been awash with speculation about a bidding frenzy for almost a year. But there have been few signs of belligerence and little evidence of a real desire for consolidation among the privatised electricity or water companies.

Yesterday's rumours about a merger between Manweb and Welsh Water suggest why a little drunken flirtation over New Year is unlikely to lead to a spring wedding. Welsh Water has been down this road before having taken a 14.9 per cent stake in South Wales Electricty, a strategy that came a cropper when Swalec rebuffed its overtures. However, Welsh's top team of Iain Evans and Graham Hawker are thought to be still keen on the cost-savings in combining two utilites.

The theory is that both companies would save by merging billing systems and sharing resources, such as vehicles. Of greater importance is tax: water companies benefit from massive capital allowances while their regional electricity brethren pay a normal tax charge. The logic would be to set off the unrelieved ACT paid by a water company against the corporation tax paid by a REC.

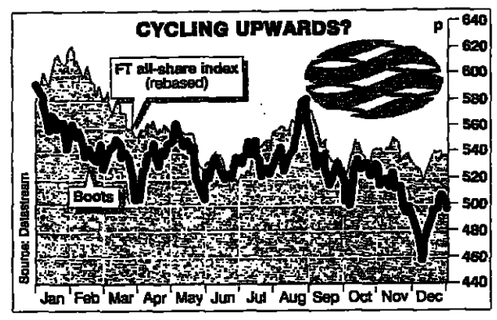
The ultimate attraction of such a merger is more simple: water companies needs cash to invest in environmental projects and RECs are rolling in it. That is where a deal could be struck for Welsh Water and where Manweb investors will walk away. The latter will see little benefit in handing over money to invest in water projects with low returns when the alternative is cash in their pockets from a special divi or share buy-back. In the real world the rich do not marry the less well-off, they marry each other.

Boots

AFTER much kicking and screaming by their children, Britain's parents finally reached for their cheque-books in time to boost Christmas bicycle sales, with Halfords a big winner. Sales were up 15 per cent and about one in every three bikes was bought at the Boots subsidiary.

Boots had a good yuletide after a rotten October and November. Almost all of the gains in the 4.1 per cent net sales rise came in the few weeks to Christmas, with double-digit growth in sales of perfumes, cosmetics and gift-wrapped toiletries. At Boots the Chemists, the lone drag was in over-the-counter remedies which only kept pace with inflation, but even there growth was 8 per cent if last year's flu epidemic is stripped out. Even more encouraging was growth at the troubled Do It All and AG Stanley which suffered a fall in the half-year.

The late December boost to the high street looks suspiciously like a flight to quality with hopes of good third-quarter sales at John Lewis and Marks and Spencer, with weaker chains favoured less well. That analysis bodes well for Boots, which needs to capture market share to feed its new stores. Gross sales figures, including new stores, were only marginally above net sales growth, figures which should tell investors that the consumer is not flush with funds. In such a climate, market leaders like Boots are the best buy.



UK property

GLOOM and despondency in the quoted property sector seems to grow at the same rate as surveyors' forecasts of growth in rents. This apparent contradiction has little to do with market distrust of surveyors. Most watchers of property stocks agree that rents are on the rise and forecasts by Richard Ellis that prime rents in London will grow by over 15 per cent are not new. The problem lies in the space that is not prime.

Typically, surveyors forecast prime rents, meaning modern, top quality buildings such as Broadgate, the City complex at the centre of the Stanhope rescue talks. Such properties account for only a fifth of the empty space on the London market and even leading property companies will have the bulk of their portfolio in buildings that fall below the top drawer.

The outlook is not good, causing brokers such as UBS to downgrade forecast asset values for leading property stocks. While rents in the poshest office buildings could well grow by 20 per cent per year as tenants move up-market, modest demand for space means most landlords will, at best, get inflation increases. Moreover, a hefty portion of the prime London stock is let at rents almost double the current rates of £30-35 per sq ft.

That suggests that the portfolios of the likes of Land Securities, Great Portland and MEPC will mark time this year and without a good dose of bid speculation the property sector will drift.

Reg Vardy

THE auto market might be in the doldrums but nobody seems to have told Reg Vardy, the car dealer with a stronghold in the North East.

The company is on target for full-year profits of about £10.5 million this year, rising from £8.5 million, after a 43 per cent rise to £5.03 million at the interim stage. If property profits are excluded, the increase would have been closer to 69 per cent.

In a flat new car market, Vardy responded by beefing up its used car business and after-sales activities. The company is still closely associated with Nissan in its heartland, but Vardy almost doubled profits from selling Mercedes Benz, BMW, Jaguar and Aston Martin, where margins stood up better to competitive pressures.

Vardy shares still have much ground to recover since February's 12-month high of 221p. Forecast earnings of 15.5p a share for this year, with a 5p total dividend, implies a prospective multiple of 10.7.

That is hardly demanding by the sector's standards, but there appears to be no reason to chase the shares back to their peak until the auto market shows willingness to tackle chronic overcapacity and drive up margins on new vehicles.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	[illegible]	Mar	1045 SLR
May	[illegible]	Jul	1060-1050
Jul	1065-1060	Sep	1065 BID
Sep	1065-1062	Dec	1060-1070
Dec	1065-1062		
Mar	1055-1052		Volume 6551

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	[illegible]	Nov	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	Jan	[illegible]
Jul	[illegible]	Mar	2790-2775
Sep	[illegible]		Volume 2459

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	[illegible]
[illegible]		Dec	[illegible]
Mar	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	May	[illegible]
Aug	[illegible]		Volume 1988

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

[illegible] for UK prices at representative markets on Jan [illegible]

	Pigs	Sheep	Cattle
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.05	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Feb)	16.40	+0.15
Brent 15 day (Mar)	16.40	+0.10
W. Texas Intermediate (Feb)	17.70	+0.10
W. Texas Intermediate (Mar)	17.65	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	167.50-169	(0.167.50)
Gasoil EEC	148 (+3)	(151-153)
Nom EEC 1H Feb	148 (+3)	151 (+1)
Nom EEC 1H Mar	149 (+1)	153 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	110 (+.5)	(112-113)
Naphtha	154 (+1)	161 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	144.75-145.00	Apr	150.00-150.25
Feb	147.50-147.75	May	150.50-150.75
Mar	149.50-149.75		Vol 19699

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	16.34-16.36	Apr	16.27-16.31
Mar	16.35-16.36	Jun	[illegible]
Apr	16.27-16.28		Vol 24743

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	107.40	Jan	103.50
Mar	108.90	Mar	105.25
May	110.35	May	107.10
Jul	112.45	Sep	96.25
Sep	99.75	Nov	96.25
Volume 292		Volume 81	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	257.0	264.5
May	[illegible]	310.0
Jun	[illegible]	[illegible]
		Volume 102

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)

Feb [illegible]

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $/£/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jun 95	2040	2000	2040
Aug 95	2045	2020	2045
Oct 95	2040	2030	2040
Dec 95	2045	1960	1960
Feb 96	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vol 1564 lots		Open Int 5227	

Index [illegible]

[illegible] (Official (volume prev day)

Copper Grade A (£/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lead (£/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zinc Spec High Grade ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tin ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aluminium Alloy (£/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nickel ($/tonne)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Cash [illegible] Three months [illegible]

Rudolf Wolff

Vol [illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95	3265.0	3270.0	3230.0	3242.0	11096
[illegible]	Jun 95	3279.0	3283.0	3245.0	3255.0	120
FT-SE 250	Mar 95				3490.0	0
[illegible]	Jun 95					0
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95	92.64	92.65	92.63	92.64	17331
[illegible]	Jun 95	91.93	91.96	91.91	91.91	14261
	Sep 95	91.36	91.40	91.35	91.35	7244
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95				92.59	0
[illegible]	Jun 95				92.11	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95	94.46	94.51	94.45	94.47	54704
[illegible]	Jun 95	94.06	94.10	94.02	94.04	52136
Long Gilt	Mar 95	101.24	101.29	101.13	101.16	44398
[illegible]	Jun 95	100.23	100.29	100.13	100.16	3223
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	107.77	107.80	107.72	107.72	1726
[illegible]	Jun 95				107.12	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95	93.93	94.05	93.86	93.97	115731
[illegible]	Jun 95	94.10	94.20	94.05	94.16	813
Three month ECU	Mar 95	93.01	93.02	93.00	93.00	441
[illegible]	Jun 95	92.58	92.65	92.57	92.60	492
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95	96.53	96.54	96.51	96.52	5250
[illegible]	Jun 95	96.22	96.23	96.20	96.22	1062
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	96.09	96.09	96.09	96.09	Double
[illegible]	Jun 95				95.23	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: [illegible] Finance Houses [illegible]

Discount Market Loans [illegible] Week fixed [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Buy) [illegible] Sell: 2 mth [illegible] 3 mth [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Buy)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Money Rates:					
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Local Authority Deps	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	6-6¼	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	6	[illegible]	[illegible]
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

ECGD: [illegible] Fixed Rate Export Finance Mar-up day Nov 30 1994 Agreed rate: [illegible] Dec 20 [illegible] 31 Dec 95. Reference rate Nov 1, 1994 to Nov 30 [illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open [illegible] Close: $374.20-374.70 (High: $375.70-376.20 Low: $373.[illegible] AM: $[illegible] PM: $375.30

Krugerrand: [illegible]

Platinum: [illegible] Silver: [illegible] Palladium: $154.50 (159.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for [illegible]

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Tiny stays aboard

THERE is life in Tiny Rowland yet! Tiny, who turned 77 on November 27 last, gave up his executive duties at Lonrho on December 31, but remains on Lonrho's board until the annual meeting in March — so it will be Dieter Bock alone who will host Thursday's presentation of 1994 final results to analysts. For his impish off-the-cuff remarks, which traditionally set the scribes scribbling at breakneck speed in their shorthand notebooks, Tiny will be sorely missed. Missed, too, will be his lavish touch when Lonrho's annual report for 1994 is published. In the past, Lonrho's report, which was adorned with enough colour photographs to fill an art gallery, was always coffee table material. The 1994 Bock edition will, I gather, be a much more subdued affair. Meanwhile, Tiny marches on. Ashanti Goldfields , the gold mine in Ghana that is managed by Lonrho, publishes its 1994 results on Tuesday, which of course begs the question: Will Tiny be staying on Ashanti's board. "Of course," was his snap reply — but then Africa always was a great respecter of age.

Sheep hurdle

IF YOU ever did entertain the idea of driving a flock of sheep through the City, you'll no longer be able to take them through the glass-fronted entrance hall of merchant bankers Robert Fleming, and out the back again. As a consequence of the security "ring of steel" in the Square Mile, building work is under way on Flemings' entrance hall, and an ancient Right of Way no longer exists. Baa!



Quid pro . . .

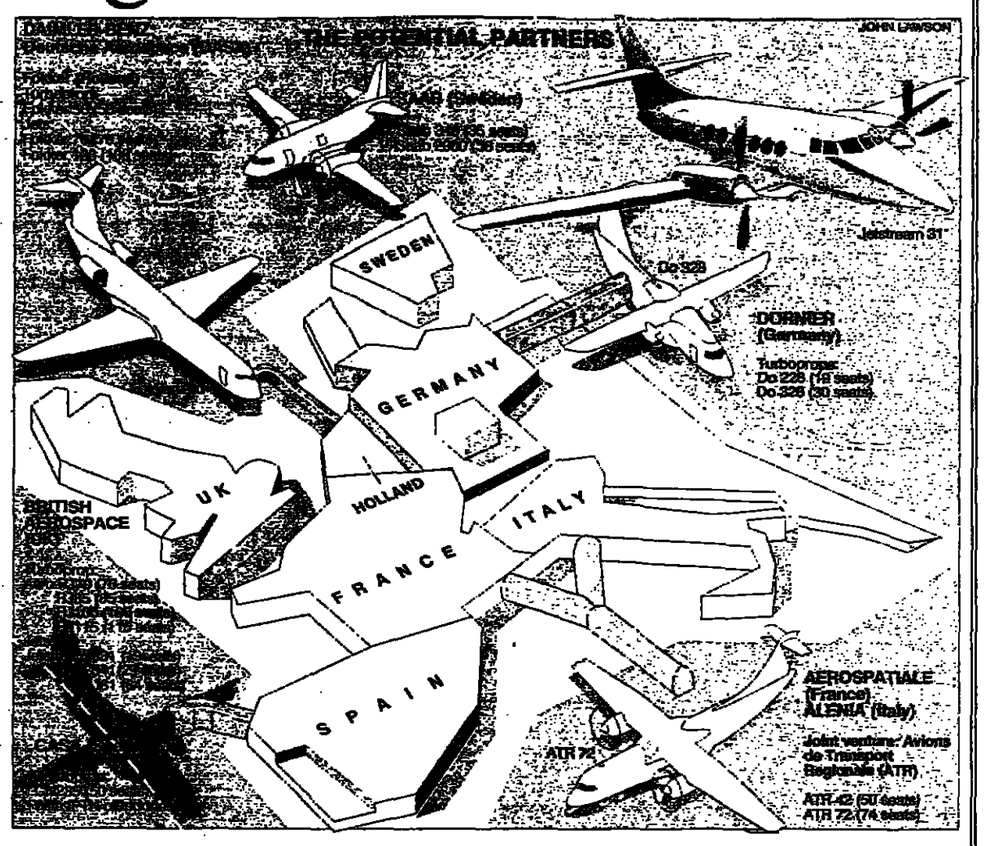
JUST occasionally, government authorities score an own goal. Two years ago a member company of the Wine and Spirit Association was charged twice for excise duty of £1,400. The duplicated debit was not refunded straightaway, and the company had to ask its bank to extend its overdraft. Five months on, the refund had not arrived, and only after the WSA made representations was a cheque sent. The WSA suggested seeking compensation for loss of interest. The request was denied since, at that time, there was no provision for interest on sums erroneously debited by HMG. More recently, the local VAT office, making a routine inspection of the same company's books, found a minor under-declaration of tax. When the amount was invoiced, the authorities added a charge "for interest HMG would have earned had the VAT been paid on time". Paying the interest demanded, the company raised the subject of its original complaint — and yesterday received a cheque from the Revenue for the interest.

THE festive season continues in Melbourne, with this broker's missive: "CORRECTION: The following typographical error appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin (sic) at 12.15'. Please correct to read '12 noon'."

COLIN CAMPBELL

Regional planemakers are coming down to earth

Cost and duplication are forcing Europe's major players to rationalise at last, says Ross Tieman



The endgame is at last in sight for Europe's regional aircraft industry. After three years of dire losses, the five manufacturers who crowd this continent are now ready to do something they should have done two decades ago: rationalise their operations.

For sheer folly, Europe's aerospace companies, and above all their government backers, can scarcely be equalled. The manufacture of regional aircraft has been piloted for too long by national pride and engineers who care only for aeroplanes, regardless of cost.

Between them British Aerospace and its European rivals produce two regional jet designs, running to six variants. In turbo-props, they offer an astonishing choice of 11 different aircraft, with little commonality of design.

Yet travellers in this continent, criss-crossed by motorways and high-speed trains, are only now learning to use regional aircraft. The big market is in the United States, where air travel is a way of life. American aircraft manufacturers, though, have long since abandoned manufacture of regional aircraft for the richer pickings in long-haul jets and private aviation. Boeing sold De Havilland Canada, the world's second-biggest turbo-prop maker, to Bombardier in 1991. Now, America's huge aerospace industry has only two regional aircraft manufacturers, Fairchild and Raytheon, offering only one little 19-seater apiece.

The Europeans have simply proved better at entering new markets than quitting old ones. Aérospatiale of France, Deutsche Aerospace, British Aerospace and Casa of Spain got together, formed Airbus Industrie, and went after Boeing and McDonnell Douglas in big jets. Airbus is now a great success.

But only the French and Italians had the wit and political courage to combine forces, forming Avions de Transport Régionale, a 50/50 joint venture, way back in October, 1981. Aérospatiale and Alenia, its Italian partner, are now world leaders in turbo-props, with 410 planes sold. At least they benefit from some scale economies. The other European aerospace heavyweights have come to rely increa singly upon the manufacture of sub-assemblies for Airbus to keep their civil aircraft factories in work.

For the early 1990s exposed the absurdity of individual ambition among Europe's aircraft assemblers. Recession tipped the regional aircraft market in America into a nosedive. As airlines cancelled orders, output slumped.

In 1994 Saab, which needs to build 50 planes a year to break even, produced just 15. British Aerospace has sharply reduced losses at its Avro jet subsidiary, through write-offs and rationalisation. But its Jetstream turbo-prop subsidiary is bleeding cash at the rate of £120 million a year. At the same time, the Europeans face new challenges. First, there is competition from developing countries, such as Brazil and Indonesia. Anxious to develop an aerospace industry of their own, they have concluded that turbo-props require only entry-level technology.

Cost-effective competition is also building from Canada, where Bombardier has achieved scale economies through a string of acquisitions including Canadair, De Havilland, Learjet and, in Belfast, Short Brothers. Bombardier has developed a 50-seat regional jet and plans a larger version.

For the market is changing. Recent accidents have made some American travellers wary of turbo-prop planes. Given the chance, passengers prefer the speed and space advantages of small jets, especially on longer flights. Some shareholders, too, have had enough. BAe's share price is crippled by its regional aircraft losses. Saab Scania has a similar problem. In France, the Government wants to privatise Aérospatiale. Meantime, in America, Boeing is muttering about building a new small jet.

> "Those ready to be flexible will do a deal, leaving the intransigent in the cold"

All this is concentrating the minds of Europe's aerospace bosses. In the past couple of months, the tone of their pronouncements has undergone a fundamental change. Dick Evans, chief executive of BAe says that in turbo-props, airlines need a range of aircraft, from 20 to 60 or even 80 seats, with common cockpits, spares and even engines. BAe no longer wants to go it alone. "We need to have 25 to 30 per cent of a business that has got a family of aircraft," he says. "Because ATR have got the biggest sector of the market I think the French and Italians are going to be crucial."

Lars Kylberg, chief executive of Saab Scania, envisages a consortium that could be made up of BAe, ATR, Saab and Deutsche Aerospace (Dasa). "We have had good discussions with the French and the British, and they have told us that they would invite another partner, probably Dasa," he told a Swedish newspaper.

Yet it may not prove possible to achieve the kind of golden scenario under which all of Europe's regional aircraft makers merge to form a single manufacturer. Too much national pride is at stake. In the end, those willing to show the greatest flexibility will reach a deal, leaving the intransigent out in the cold. Ben van Schaik, the chairman of Fokker, the jet builder controlled by Daimler Benz, has complained that BAe has been dragging its feet in discussions over creating a single European regional jet company.

Daimler-Benz declared its intention early on to dominate the design of the next European regional jet — and has found itself fighting an increasingly acrimonious battle with BAe's Avro subsidiary for market share. In recent years, the Fokker 100 and Fokker 70 have been outselling the BAe 146 by two to one. But since relaunching the plane as the RJ, and re-organising production, industry executives say BAe has been selling planes at rock-bottom prices. All the evidence suggests that BAe has been building up an order book to strengthen its hands in negotiations. But with whom? And on what terms?

Mr Kylberg said Saab was ready to give up production of its older design, the Saab 340, offered with 20 to 39 seats, provided its new Saab 2000, offering 40 to 59 seats, was retained. BAe, too, is willing to make sacrifices, and has made good progress in its discussions with Aérospatiale and Alenia. They now appear ready to go ahead with a trilateral deal.

A merger of all BAe's regional aircraft operations with ATR would offer both real advantanges. First, there would be immediate savings in the worldwide service operation. Aérospatiale would gain an entree to the regional jet sector which poses a threat to its larger turboprop, and a formidable ally. BAe would secure an ongoing interest in regional planes.

A merger of BAe's Jetstream and Avro subsidiaries with ATR would provoke an outcry over likely job losses and pose a dilemma for the European Commission.

When ATR tried to buy De Havilland in 1991 Sir Leon Brittan, then-ComPetition Commissioner, blocked the deal arguing that it would have half the world market. Karel van Miert, the present Competition Commissioner, is known for his pragmatic approach. Given the scale of losses, and Sir Leon's reduced influence, BAe and its would-be partners must be hoping the Commission will take a different line this time.

BR head sets up shop in track switch

Jon Ashworth says Sir Bob Reid's move into retailing is a bold step

Not quite planes, trains and automobiles, but close. The latest round of boardroom musical chairs sees Sir Bob Reid, one-time chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, and latterly head of British Rail, take a bold step into the world of retailing. He becomes part-time chairman of Sears at the end of June, taking the reins from Geoffrey Maitland Smith, who bows out after nine turbulent years at the helm.

The jokes have started already: "leaves in the tills". "wrong kind of snow" in the Selfridges toy department. No matter to Sir Bob, 60, who has endured every conceivable gibe in five years at BR. He arrived brimming with enthusiasm, saying: "I want to make the trains run on time." Five years on, trains are still running late, and memories of 1994's wildcat rail stoppages are fresh.

All in all, a marked change of pace for the man who won many friends in 34 years with Shell, but was soon tagged as a "nice guy" who was not really up to job after joining BR in 1990. A quite different routine awaits him at Sears, whose interests run from the Selfridges flagship store in London to the Olympus sports chain. The real power is vested in Liam Strong, who has presided over an impressive, if bloody, reorganisation since his appointment as chief executive in February 1992.

> "The nice guy will find Sears a different routine"

Mr Maitland Smith, 61, has gradually scaled back his role over the past 12 months, swinging the spotlight on to Mr Strong, but continuing to draw £243,000 in salary and pension. Sir Bob earned roughly as much during most of his spell at BR, but what awaits him is unclear. He switched to a three-day week when Railtrack was formed in April 1994, and saw his salary fall accordingly from more than £200,000 to £131,600.

He could hardly have chosen a better time to join Sears. The retail group has been whipped into shape since Mr Strong arrived. Loss-making subsidiaries have been sold and hundreds of high street shoe shops closed. Management structure has been slimmed.

An unwelcome threat was removed in April 1993, when the Fayed brothers abruptly disposed of a 10.6 per cent stake in Sears at a £60 million loss. The Egyptians bought most of their stake from the late Robert Holmes à Court six years earlier, and talked of combining Harrods and Selfridges under the umbrella of a new blue chip stores company.

By early last year, a dismal £48 million loss had swung to a £138 million profit — helped by the sale of Asprey, the jewellers. Sears kept up the pace, lifting pre-tax profits 38 per cent to £54 million in the six months to July 31. The next snapshot comes in April, when full year results are due.

It is all a far cry from the world of oil, which brought the young Bob Reid postings in Brunei, Nigeria, Thailand and Australia. Born in Cupar, Fife, in 1934, he quickly won a reputation for true grit after losing his right arm in an accident at his father's butcher's shop at the age of nine. He learnt to write with his left hand within two weeks, and went on to become a crack Scottish amateur golfer. He joined Shell Petroleum in 1956 after graduating from St Andrews University. He was appointed chairman and chief executive of Shell UK in 1985 and held the post until 1990, when BR beckoned. By the end of his term, he had grown increasingly critical of plans to privatise Britain's railways, saying it would saddle managers with an even greater burden.

Sir Bob's departure from BR — his contract expires at the end of March — leaves the Government scrabbling to find a successor ahead of the controversial £6.5 billion rail privatisation, planned for next year. Headhunters had enough trouble last time round. Lord King and Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways and Sir Alastair Morton, joint chairman of Eurotunnel, were among those who rejected the challenge before Sir Bob accepted.

The round of musical chairs has one last twist: the rail industry still has a former oil man in Robert Horton, who became chairman of Railtrack after quitting BP in 1992.

Colin Narbrough interviews the new European chief

Samsung puts name up in lights

Samsung, the South Korean industrial conglomerate, sees the millions of pounds it is spending on its recently unveiled neon display in Piccadilly Circus as a symbol of its long-term commitment to Britain.

The biggest and the oldest of the Korean *chaebol*, the family controlled business empires at the heart of South Korea's economic miracle, Samsung made its interest in Britain plain this autumn with the decision to invest £450 million in a state-of-the-art electronics plant at Wynyard, Cleveland.

Choi Sung-Rai, 50, the newly appointed head of Samsung Europe, who is transferring his group's regional headquarters from Frankfurt to London, told *The Times* in an interview that his goal was to make Samsung a company that would no longer be seen as Korean.

Mr Choi's cautious manner belies his company's muscle. Samsung has yet to become as big a household name in Britain as some of its rivals, but it is ranked as the world's 14th biggest company by *Fortune* magazine. It made a net profit of $521 million last year, more than half of it from electronics.

Lee Kun-Hee, the ambitious chairman and son of Samsung's founder, has radically restructured the organisation and aims to quadruple turnover to $200 billion in a decade.

There was no mistaking Mr Choi's pleasure in the symbolism of having Samsung's name in lights displacing the neon of Panasonic, the Japanese group, in Piccadilly.

He made clear that Samsung has not chosen Britain for its biggest European investment simply to access some of the region's lowest-cost labour. The group is committed to high technology and first-rank quality. "Labour costs do not play a big part in the electronics industry," he said.


Choi Sung-Rai extols the attractions of Britain as a base

Among the key reasons for Samsung opting for Britain rather than a continental European base, Mr Choi gave the "abundance of creativity-oriented resources". Korean teamwork and British creativity would surely produce a "very competitive entity" in Britain, he said.

Mr Choi said that the £58 million package of grants and loans that the Government assembled for the Wynyard project helped Samsung's decision. But he emphasised Britain's good infrastructure for business, the ease of the English language and some cultural affinities, on which he did not elaborate.

Samsung Europe, like the other four regional units the company has set up, will have a wider focus than electronics. Heavy industry, which will in future cover cars, chemicals and services, including financial services, are the other main sectors.

Mr Choi, who is still searching for 100,000 to 150,000 sq ft of office space for his European HQ in London, sees his mission as developing all of Samsung's core businesses in this region, as well as research and development. There would be no problem financing the expansion: "We currently have the strongest financial status."

Samsung's electronics arm, a world leader in some areas of semiconductor technology, said on December 21 that it expected to more than quadruple its pre-tax profit this year to $1.26 billion, reflecting the sharp rise in sales of semiconductors and personal computers.

Warnings that Samsung electronics could face a legal action from Korean investors over extrordinary losses on the share price cast a shadow over the profit performance. But Samsung is no stranger to controversy. Last month an industrial espionage suit was filed against its heavy industry arm. Its determination to enter the car market, against the South Korean Government's wishes, shows how ready the group, which employs 200,000 people, is to play hard.

With a flicker of arrogance, Mr Choi suggested that the economic reforms of Kim Young-Sam, the South Korean President, had put in place were more likely to have been driven by reforms at Samsung than vice versa.

Mr Choi's message is unmistakable: Samsung wants to produce and finance in Europe what the region's consumers want. It could be producing cars locally by 2000, it has ambitions in white goods and it seems assured of an important place in the European electronics industry.

And it will be flashing its lights more regularly in London's financial markets.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Still waiting for the facts on Lloyd's

From Mr J. L. Finlay

Sir, Mr J. D. Burrows hopes that 1995 will see the true facts revealed in the courts of justice as to what happened at Lloyd's (Business Letters, December 21). Some of us wonder if that is possible.

In two separate recent legal actions Lloyd's pleaded and the three highest courts in England decided that it has no duty to act with good care and in good faith as regards its members interests.

In effect, LLoyd's pleaded and the courts agreed that its long-time boast that it always acts in the utmost good faith is irrelevant when it comes to advancing and protecting the interests of its members. Those, of course, are spelled out in the Lloyd's Acts as the prime purpose and reasons for its very existence. How any organisations can advance and protect its members interests while acting carelessly and in bad faith is a conundrum which I, at least, have been unable to answer.

One wonders at Lloyd's making such a plea at all. Then one marvels that the courts agree. Then one is astounded to learn that the Court of Appeal has decided that even the Crown Prosecution Service has no duty to act with care to those it is prosecuting (*The Times* law report, November 23).

One can conclude that the true facts are unlikely ever to be revealed in English courts. It is more likely that they will be revealed elsewhere, perhaps to more damaging effect.

Yours faithfully,
J L FINLAY,
Chairman,
Names Defence Association
PO Box 661,
Great Missenden,
Bucks.

Cold-calling for wills

From Mr Patrick Cracroft-Brennan

Sir, I was interested to read the letter from H. J. Belsey, Risks of will drafting, Business Letters, December 29). At first I thought that the writer was objecting to being "cold-called" by a firm of will writers but on re-reading the letter it would seem that he or she is in fact objecting to the concept of tele-marketing.

The argument that it could be unwise to disclose one's financial position to a stranger with whom one has only come into contact over the telephone is true. However, this could just as easily be said about cold-calls from insurance salesmen (or even from double-glazing salesmen) as about those from will writers.

Tele-marketing is a fact of modern life and many people make their living through this medium (ask any Allied Dunbar sales executive). While it is regrettable that the cold-call can often be a nuisance or be seen as an intrusion into one's privacy, there are many people who have been pleased to be called and have bought the service or product on offer.

The professional bodies for accountants and solicitors do not permit their members to cold-call prospective clients, yet the insurance and pension regulators have no such restrictions — who is to say which approach is right. Anyone who receives a cold-call should treat it with extreme caution. They should bear in mind they always have the option to put the telephone down.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK CRACROFT-BRENNAN,
The London Will Company,
27 Old Gloucester Street, WC1.

These costs count

From Mr Tony Cannings

Sir, I am interested to see that the Retail Prices Index Advisory Committee is urging the Chancellor to reduce the weighting of mortgage and interest payments, and introduce house prices.

Any individual doing a domestic budget (consciously or subconciously) compares income with outgoings like cost of utilities, food, clothing, rent or mortgage, holidays and "treats". Their view of the cost of living is influenced by how these features have changed over time, and RPI is perceived as how these items have changed for "the average family".

RPI's impact on individuals, tends to be through their experience in negotiations for pay rises, and the Government's description of how well the economy is going.

I know that mortgages have gone up recently due to the reduction in tax relief, so my cost of living, along with that of many others, has increased and RPI should have gone up reflecting this. My understanding of movement in house prices, is that they are falling, and have been falling for quite a while.

If the committee recommendations are accepted, RPI is likely to under-represent the cost of living for the average man, whilst the Government harps on about the economy being under control. Acceptance of the recommendations will also open up the opportunity for the Government to remove mortgage relief altogether, without apparently affecting the cost of living (as measured by the "modified" RPI).

Is there any wonder that the feel-good factor is absent?

Yours faithfully,
TONY CANNINGS,
36 St Winifred's Road,
Teddington.

Hong Kong keen to downplay US sanctions threat

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

HONG KONG is trying to downplay the potential damage to its economy of the extensive trade sanctions that America has threatened to impose on China.

Brian Chau, the colony's Trade and Industry Secretary, said yesterday that the Hong Kong authorities were still studying Washington's sanctions list, which covered goods worth an estimated US$2.8 billion. He pointed out that it appeared that America would not impose sanctions on all the items on its recently announced list, and would focus on trade worth US$1 billion.

As the main entry point for Chinese trade, Hong Kong last year feared that American threats to remove China's "most-favoured nation" trading status would have wrought substantial damage on Hong Kong.

Mr Chau's remarks confirmed that the Hong Kong authorities see the latest threat from Washington as much less of an economic problem than the estimated 46 per cent cut in re-exports of Chinese goods via Hong Kong that loss of most-favoured-nation status would have meant.

Total Chinese-American trade was worth US$59 billion in the first nine months of last year, which showed that the US$1 billion worth potentially affected by sanctions was "only a small proportion", Mr Chau said. He added that it was too early to say how much any sanctions could hit Hong Kong owned factories in southern China, but noted that toys, an important sector, were not on the American list.

Peking yesterday kept up its attack on Washington's trade policy stance, issuing a report by legal experts that said the American demands for enhanced copyright protection in China were unreasonable.

The Clinton Administration, which accuses China of allowing American copyrights to be violated wholesale, blocked China's admission as a founder member of the World Trade Organisation, which started up on January 1.

Peter Sutherland, Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, said in Oxford yesterday that China should be included in the new free trade organisation, but only after it complied with basic rules of discipline and transparency.

He said China and America should solve their trade differences through bilateral discussions. Mr Sutherland noted that China was the world's sixth-largest trading nation and that discussions on its entry to the World Trade Organisation would continue for "some time".

The Chinese Government yesterday ordered all enterprises and trade organisations to comply with anti-dumping inquiries in what appeared to be another move to try to counter American allegations about China's trade practices.

The Trade Ministry, however, accused foreign governments of misusing allegations of dumping by China to impose protectionism, of imposing illicit anti-dumping duties and using inaccurate figures concerning estimated production costs.

Peking authorities said that 37 Chinese companies were the subject of anti-dumping investigations by foreign countries last year.

Papa and Nicole lift Renault's UK market share

BY OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

RENAULT, the French state-controlled automotive group which recently started down the privatisation road, captured 11 per cent of the European car market last year, up from 10.6 per cent the previous year.

Patrick Faure, the managing director, said the 1994 showing was the Renault marque's "best performance in terms of market share in Europe in 10 years".

In Britain, the highly successful "Papa...Nicole" advertising campaign has helped to lift Renault's share of the car market to above 6 per cent, double the level of the late 1980s.

Roland Bouchara, just appointed marketing director of Renault UK, believes the company's market share in Britain can be increased still further. He succeeds Gérard Saint-Martin.

The group's world vehicle sales rose 4.8 per cent last year to 1.84 million. In Europe, sales of cars and commercial vehicles were up 7.9 per cent at 1.5 million, with car sales alone up 9.3 per cent.

The gains in Europe have propelled Renault into third place among carmakers in terms of volume sales, from fourth position in 1993. The company put overall market growth in the European car market at 5.8 per cent last year.

In France, sales benefited from the government scheme for financial incentives to drivers scrapping old cars and buying new ones. This produced 14.6 per cent growth in the domestic market last year.

PETER TREVINOR



Game, set and countrywide expansion this year for leisure centre host David Lloyd

David Lloyd's profit ace

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S prospects for success in international tennis may be as bleak as ever but the fortunes of David Lloyd Leisure, headed by the eponymous tennis star of yesteryear, continue to shine.

The company, floated on the stock market two years ago, reported a 35 per cent rise in annual profits yesterday and spelled out plans to step up expansion beyond its traditional heartland of London and the South East.

In the year to the end of September, profits rose to £7.64 million (£5.67 million), lifting earnings to 12.67p a share from 10.85p. The final dividend, payable on April 12, rises to 2.2p a share from 1.95p, making 3.65p (1.95p).

There was a maiden contribution from Renfrew, Glasgow, the company's first newly built club outside London, and from a ten-pin bowling centre at Raynes Park, London. In the final quarter, two smaller clubs were purchased at Bournemouth and Ringwood. Facilities were completed and opened in Bristol and Eastbourne.

New developments, modelled on the Renfrew club, will be completed this year in Birmingham and Bristol. Planning applications have been submitted for clubs in Manchester and Cardiff and discussions are taking place on sites in Edinburgh and Leeds as well as on a second one in Manchester.

Mr Lloyd said significant growth would come from existing and new clubs. The shares fell 4p to 260p.

MIM chief resigns giving a day's notice

NORM FUSSELL, giving just one day's notice, tendered his resignation as chief executive of MIM Holdings, the embattled Australian mining company. Although Mr Fussell cited personal reasons for his departure, his role was increasingly being called into question after the company suffered a net loss of A$195 million (£96.6 million) in the 1993-94 financial year. MIM shares lost 32 per cent in value in the last four months of 1994 in spite of rising world metal prices.

Although Mr Fussell, 57, who had been at the helm of MIM since December 1990, indicated his decision to resign was for lifestyle reasons, analysts said they believed he was forced to resign. Mr Fussell said: "There comes a time in one's working career when it becomes necessary to move from the heavy demands associated with a chief executive's position and to look more to enjoyment of life and one's health." He has spent four months recuperating after leg surgery last year. The company has been hit hard by 1980s coal investments, a now-dismantled alliance with Germany's Metallgesellschaft and depressed metal prices.

Electricity bond issue

YORKSHIRE Electricity has launched a £200 million issue of 25-year Eurosterling bonds, with the proceeds to be used for general corporate purposes including payment of the proposed 90p a share special dividend declared on December 16. UBS will be lead manager. The bonds are being issued at a fixed reoffer price of 98.84 per cent to yield 60 basis points over the 8¾ per cent Treasury stock 2017 so as to yield 9.16 per cent to investors on a semi-annual basis. The redemption date is January 17, 2020.

CRH buys Dutch firm

CRH, the Irish building materials company, has increased its presence in mainland Europe with the 42.3 million guilders (£1r15.7 million) acquisition of Dy-Core systems, a Dutch producer of pre-stressed concrete floor elements. Dy-Core operates from one factory in Brabant, southwest Holland, and produces about 1 million square metres of precast concrete flooring a year. In 1993 trading profits were Fl 7 million on sales of Fl 49 million. CRH indicated that Dy-Core's 1994 profits would be ahead of the previous year.

Druck earnings rise

DRUCK Holdings, makers of electronic devices for pressure measurement, increased profits by 26 per cent to £2.6 million before tax from £2.1 million in the half year ended September 30. Profits were helped by a contribution from Unomat, an instrumentation company based in America and The Netherlands, acquired in July for £3 million. Earnings rose to 26.1p a share from 20.8p and the interim dividend is lifted to 4.1p a share from 3.7p, payable on February 20. John Salmon, chairman, said exports were improving.

Building firm hopeful

ABBEY, the Dublin construction and plant hire company, said business conditions are less encouraging than a year ago, although the board is confident of progress in the second half of the current year. In the first six months to October 31 pre-tax profits rose to Ir£4.58 million from Ir£2.65 million on turnover rising to Ir£24.4 million (Ir£18.8 million). Earnings improved to Ir8.16p (Ir4.58p); the interim dividend is up 5 per cent to 2.1p. Abbey's UK housebuilding company sold 227 homes at an average price of £76,000.

Condition need not be fulfilled

Little v Courage Ltd

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment December 21]

A condition precedent in a covenant to grant a new lease that the parties should agree on a new business plan and a new business agreement did not need to be satisfied where the landlord subsequently decided that the agreement and plan were not required.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing the appeal of the plaintiff, James Leslie Little, the tenant of a public house, against the judgment of Mr Justice Ferris in the Chancery Division deciding a preliminary point in favour of the defendant, Courage Ltd (*The Times* January 19, 1994).

Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC and Mr Mark Brealey for Mr Little; Mr Kim Lewison, QC and Mr Martin Rodger for Courage.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that Mr Litle had become the tenant of a public house in 1986. Courage had been his landlord. The lease was for five years and expired in 1991.

It contained an option to renew for a further five years. Mr Little had attempted to exercise that option. Courage had declined to grant him a further lease and Mr Little had brought proceedings for specific performance.

The case was of considerable importance, since Mr Little's lease was in the standard form employed by Courage and there were many other cases where a similar issue arose. Mr Justice Ferris had decided the preliminary issue in favour of Courage and dismissed the action. He said that he reached his conclusion with a good deal of regret since it meant that the parties' evident intention that Mr Little should have an effective right of renewal had been frustrated.

Clause 26(1) of the lease contained the option to renew on certain conditions. For the purposes of the preliminary issue it had been accepted that the conditions specified were satisfied except condition (c): "the lessee shall have agreed with the company a further business plan and a further business agreement".

No attempt had been made to agree either a further business plan or a further business agreement. Courage had asserted that, by reason of clause 26(1)(c), clause 26 of the lease was void for uncertainty and/or unenforceable in law.

As a preliminary issue Mr Justice Ferris had considered whether Courage, having refused to agree or to offer to enter into a new business agreement or a new business plan, was entitled to refuse to grant Mr Little a new lease in accordance with clause 26(1) on the ground that the condition precedent contained in clause 26(1)(c) had not been satisfied.

Courage had argued that the sole inquiry was whether the condition specified in clause 26(1)(c) had been satisfied. To that there could be only one answer; no agreement or plan had been agreed. It was useless, Courage had submitted, for Mr Little to claim that a party could not rely on his own conduct to defeat a condition precedent; Courage was under no obligation, express or implied, to agree or try to agree anything.

Mr Little had responded by submitting that by failing to discuss a new agreement or plan Courage was in breach of an implied term in the lease and could not take advantage of its own wrong.

The questions which fell to be answered were whether on the true construction of clause 26(1) and in the events which had happened (i) the condition precedent in paragraph (c) had been satisfied and (ii) if not, whether in the circumstances it needed to be satisfied.

The process of construction included, where applicable, the necessary implication of unexpressed terms and the doctrine that a man could not take advantage of his own wrong.

The latter doctrine was confined to the case where a party sought to take advantage of his own breach of a legal obligation owed by him to the party opposite.

An option to renew a lease, like any other option, was a unilateral contract under which the grantor undertook to do something if, but only if, certain conditions were satisfied.

If those conditions were satisfied the grantor had to comply with his undertaking, and in the meantime, so long as it remained possible that the conditions would be satisfied, he must not put it out of his power to perform his undertaking when the time came. That apart, however, he was under no obligation to do anything.

It was in general impossible to imply terms, that was to say terms which imposed legal obligations, into a unilateral contract. That principle was equally applicable to an option or other unilateral contract such as a lease.

It was, therefore, impossible to imply any terms into clause 26 which imported a legal obligation on Courage to do or to refrain from doing anything until its obligation to grant a further term had arisen. It followed that there was no room for the doctrine that a man could not take advantage of his own wrong.

In construing an option the court would endeavour to ascertain the true intentions of the grantor as expressed in the words which he had chosen. The whole point of an option was that the grantor undertook to grant an interest to the grantee in the future if the grantee called on him to do so, whether the grantor was then willing to grant it or not.

Mr Little had put forward a variety of terms to be implied. They were: that Courage would not prevent the fulfilment by Mr Little of condition (c); that Courage would take all reasonable steps to reach agreement with Mr Little on a further agreement and plan; that Courage would use its best endeavours to reach agreement with Mr Little on a new agreement and plan; that Courage would produce and offer to enter into a new agreement and plan in a form to be determined by Courage acting reasonably.

Each of those terms would impose a contractual obligation on Courage in relation to the possible renewal of the lease before it was a party to any contract at all in relation to its renewal. For the reasons his Lordship had already given, no such term could be implied.

Mr Justice Ferris had rejected the suggested implied terms for a different reason. He had considered that each of the suggested terms was either by its express words or on analysis a term which required the parties to negotiate or reach agreement on the contents of the agreement and plan. Such a term had no legal content and would not be implied. His Lordship agreed that none of the suggested terms could be implied for that reason also.

In his Lordship's judgment, it was impossible to imply into clause 26 of the lease any legal obligation on the part of Courage to do or to refrain from doing anything.

It followed that there was no basis for invoking the doctrine that a man would not be allowed to take advantage of his own wrong.

Mr Little had further submitted, that on a true construction of the clause, condition (c) had been satisfied. In his Lordship's judgment, condition (c) had not been satisfied. That however, was not the end of the matter.

There still remained the question whether, on the true construction of clause 26 and in the events which had happened, it was necessary for the condition to have been satisfied. To answer that question it was necessary to have regard to what the parties in 1986 must have contemplated would happen if Mr Little had wished to renew the lease.

His Lordship had little doubt, on the facts, that the parties had not contemplated negotiation and agreement, but rather acceptance by Mr Little of what Courage put before him. That was consistent with the language of condition (c), which did not require the parties to negotiate or reach agreement, but required the tenant to agree the new business agreement and business plan with Courage.

What then if Courage had changed its policy and decided to dispense with business agreements and business plans. Would that mean that Mr Little would no longer have the right to renew the lease?

In his Lordship's judgment effect could be given to the parties' obvious intentions by construing condition (c) as if it read: "(c) the lessee shall if so required have agreed with the company a further business plan and a further business agreement".

Those words imposed no obligation on Courage. It was free to require the tenant to agree a new business agreement and business plan or not. Failure to do so would not involve Courage in any breach of obligation. But it would not prevent the fulfilment of the conditions precedent to Courage's obligation to grant a new term.

Whether Courage had required the tenant to agree a new business agreement or a new business plan would be a question of fact in each case. It was not one which should cause any difficulty.

The requirement would, of course, have to be made in good faith, and the best means of proving that would be for Courage to show that it had submitted for the tenant's acceptance a business agreement and business plan into which it was itself willing to enter.

Courage was not willing to grant a new lease and accordingly it did not require Mr Little to agree a new business agreement or business plan. It followed that condition (c) did not need to be satisfied.

Sir Stephen Brown and Lord Justice Kennedy agreed.

Solicitors: Charles Russell; Masons.

Transfer of assets by individual abroad not caught by tax Act

Inland Revenue Commissioners v Willoughby and Another

Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Morritt

[Judgment December 16]

The anti-avoidance provisions contained in sections 739 to 741 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, transfer by individuals of assets to persons resident abroad, did not apply to a transfer made by an individual at a time when he was not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the Crown from the determination of a special commissioner discharging assessments to income tax for the years from 1987 to 1991 raised on the taxpayer, Mr Peter Willoughby, and his wife, Mrs Ruth Willoughby.

The court also upheld the commissioner's further determination that the taxpayer's acquisition of a single premium bond did not have as its purpose, or one of its purposes, the avoidance of income tax so that the exemption from section 739 that was contained in section 741 of the Act would in any event apply.

The Crown's appeal was brought directly to the Court of Appeal in accordance with the provisions of Order 61, rule 4(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

In 1986 the taxpayer, a professor at the University of Hong Kong, shortly before his retirement, put a lump sum into a personal portfolio bond with the Isle of Man subsidiary of Royal Life Insurance International Ltd.

At the time he was resident in Hong Kong but intended returning to the United Kingdom after retirement, which he did in 1987. After returning to the United Kingdom the taxpayer's wife acquired two further bonds and the taxpayer transferred further assets into the first bond to pay administration charges.

The scheme of the single premium portfolio bond was that an individual transferred money to the insurance company by way of premium and the insurance company issued policies of life insurance.

The individual or his financial adviser then nominated investments up to the value of the money transferred, the value insured under the policies then being linked to the performance of those investments.

The taxpayer and his wife were assessed under section 739 on the income of the investments in the portfolios attached to the bonds.

Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Launcelot Henderson for the Crown; Mr David Goy, QC and Mr Philip Baker for the taxpayer and his wife.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT in a reserved judgment said that section 739 and its statutory predecessor, section 478 of the 1970 Act, had been enacted for the purpose of preventing individuals avoiding tax by the transfer of assets to persons resident abroad.

It was common ground that (i) section 739 could apply to a transfer of assets situated outside the United Kingdom made by an individual at a time when he was ordinarily resident in the UK, and (ii) the deferral of a liability to income tax could constitute the avoidance of liability to tax for the purposes of that section.

The question remained whether the section could apply to a transfer of assets made by an individual at any time when he was not ordinarily resident in the UK. The commissioner decided that it could not.

The statutory provisions were first given detailed consideration by the House of Lords in *Congreve v IRC* ([1948] 1 All ER 593).

The actual point at issue on the appeal had come before the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland in *Herdman v IRC* ([1967] 45 TC 394).

Applying the *Congreve* case, it was there held that the provisions did not require that the transferor should be ordinarily resident in the UK at the time of the transfer.

However in *Vestey v IRC* ([1980] AC 1148) the House of Lords decided that *Congreve* had been wrongly decided with the result that such persuasive authority which the decision in *Herdman* would otherwise have had was destroyed.

The issue was to be decided on the basis of the wording of the sections with such assistance as could be derived from *Vestey*. Consideration was to be given to the speeches of Lord Wilberforce (at p1174 and 1176), Viscount Dilhorne (at pp1182-3), Lord Edmund-Davies (at p1195) and Lord Keith of Kinkel (at p1197).

The logic of the decision was that the statutory provisions required that the transferor should be ordinarily resident in the UK at the time of the transfer.

Thus the first point was to be decided in the same sense as the commissioner had done.

The consequence was that the assessments based on the acquisition of the bond by the taxpayer in 1986 was to be discharged.

But that first point did not arise in respect of the later acquisitions by the taxpayer and his wife. Thus it was necessary to deal with the exemption point.

Section 741 provided the exemption if the taxpayer showed "that the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation was not the purpose or one of the purposes" for which the transfer was effected.

The Crown accepted that the bonds were bonds or policies to which section 553 of the 1988 Act, non-resident policies, applied.

But it contended that the hallmark of such a bond not effected for the purpose of avoiding a liability to tax was that the investments to which the bond or policy was linked were pooled and the choice of individual investment did not lie with the holder of the bond.

It was submitted that here the substance of the matter was that the holder continued to manage his own portfolio but by the insertion of the bond or policy escaped tax on the income as it arose.

That submission was unacceptable. The commissioner, having considered the decision in *IRC v Challenge Corporation Ltd* ([1987] 1 AC 155), found that having regard to the taxpayer's transfers and their application in the acquisition of Royal Life bonds to make provision for his retirement, taxation was a matter that had been taken into account.

But, he declined to conclude that "avoiding liability to taxation was one of the purposes for which the transfers ... were effected" and that "on balance ... Professor Willoughby makes out his case under section 741(a)".

The commissioner was right on the point. The genuine application of a taxpayer's money in the acquisition of a species of property for which Parliament has determined a special tax regime did not amount to tax avoidance merely on the ground that the taxpayer might have chosen a different application which would have subjected him to less favourable tax treatment: see *IRC v Brebner* ([1967] 2 AC 18, 30) per Lord Upjohn.

The taxpayer and his wife had established that they were entitled to have all the assessments made on them under section 739 discharged.

Lord Justice Glidewell and Lord Justice Hobhouse agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Baileys Shaw & Gillett.

Who can complain to BCC

Regina v Broadcasting Complaints Commission, Ex parte Channel Four Television Corporation

[Judgment December 19]

Before Mr Justice Schiemann

When determining whether a complainant was a "person affected" under section 144(2) of the Broadcasting Act 1990 whose complaint the Broadcasting Complaints Commission could entertain, the term "direct interest" in the definition of "person affected" in section 150 of the Act was to be construed broadly.

Mr Justice Schiemann so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing the application of Channel Four Television Corporation to prohibit the Broadcasting Complaints Commission from hearing or determining a complaint by Elmton-with-Creswell Parish Council and when dismissing Channel Four's application for a declaration that the parish council was not a person affected.

Channel Four had made a television programme purporting to show racism in the Derbyshire village of Cresswell. The parish council complained, inter alia, that Channel Four had given the impression of there being serious racism in the village and then failed to interview a parish councillor who felt able to refute that.

Section 144 of the 1990 Act provides: "(2) A complaint ... shall not be entertained by the BCC unless made by the person affected..."

Section 150 provides: "... 'the person affected' ... means a participant in the programme in question who was the subject of that treatment or a person who, whether such a participant or not, had a direct interest in the subject-matter of that treatment."

Mr Jonathan Caplan, QC, for Channel Four; Miss Presley Baxendale, QC, for the BCC.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said that in section 144(7) of the 1990 Act the BCC was given a discretion whether or not to entertain the application of persons who had a direct interest in the subject matter of the treatment complained of but whose interest was not sufficiently direct to justify the making of a complaint with the applicant as the person affected.

If a person could have an interest which was not sufficiently direct to justify the making of a complaint with him as the person affected and yet that person was rightly described as having a direct interest in the subject matter of the treatment complained of then that indicated that the concept of a direct interest was a broad one.

The disadvantage entailed in a broad definition of "direct interest" of having too many complaints was avoidable by the BCC being empowered to cease proceeding with a complaint and statute generally gave the BCC a wide discretion about such matters.

The BCC was entitled to understand the subject matter of the unfair treatment as being the attitude of the villagers to racial matters and that was something in which the parish council did have direct interest. Investigating that complaint to the bitter end could be beyond the BCC's resources and it might not wish to proceed with some or all aspects of the case.

Solicitors: D. J. Freeman & Co; Gregory Rowcliffe & Milners.

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Europe	259.30	275.80	+ 1.70	0.84
Brit Assets	68.52	72.90	- 0.50	3.14
Brit Fixd Int Acc	96.13	104.40	- 0.50	4.96
Brit Fixd Int Inc	71.99	76.50	- 0.36	4.96
Global Opps	80.98	85.83	- 0.57	0.39
Balanced Acc	52.31	55.65	- 0.23	3.08
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High Income	125.40	133.10	+ 0.40	7.71
High Inc Equity	154.30	165.00	- 1.20	4.77
Worldwide Bond	250.20	272.00	- 0.20	5.69
Capital Growth				
American Growth	269.10	286.80	+ 0.90	.70
Asian Pacific	308.80	328.50	+ 1.60	
Assets & Earnings	349.20	365.10	- 1.60	2.95
Canday & Europe	106.30	113.10	- 2.50	..
Exec Cautious' Inc	127.60	136.50	- 0.10	.71
Exec Income	136.30	145.70	- 0.10	1.41
General	216.90	230.70	- 0.80	2.36
Japan	128.10	136.30	- 0.50	..
Managed Inc	136.60	145.50	- 0.60	1.64
UK Growth Dist	115.10	122.60	+ 0.50	2.64
UK Emerging Cos	129.20	138.30	- 0.60	..
Income & Growth	366.20	389.80	- 3.00	3.21
Unitrust	65.51	69.48	- 0.42	3.07
International	112.40	119.60	- 0.40	.97
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ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
031 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	216.55	216.82	- 3.00	..
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Amer Inc & Growth	42.28	43.89	+ 0.19	0.71
Cash	50.19	50.19†	..	4.48
European	107.20	112.80	+ 0.50	..
Financial	992.30	980.00	+ 4.40	1.86
Extra Income #	47.41	49.87	- 0.11	8.05
Far East Emrg Eco	109.80	116.70	- 0.40	0.54
Fixed Interest #	29.52	29.52†	+ 0.01	8.86
Fixed Int Tst	108.30	113.10	- 0.70	7.94
Japan	180.80	191.40	- 2.30	4.08
Latin American	55.92	58.70	- 2.50	0.83
Pacific	70.41	74.16	- 0.21	0.58
Property Shars	68.56	63.57†	+ 0.48	2.15
UK Emerging Cos	60.40	63.61	- 0.10	1.95
UK General #	42.47	45.17	- 0.13	2.59
Aber World Port #	68.71	71.00	- 0.18	2.31
Ethical	58.10	62.04†	- 0.06	2.83
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	45.65	48.69†	+ 0.04	7.72
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
031 549 3232				
84/Sh Growth	86.30	70.53†	- 0.49	2.72
British Income	76.94	81.69†	- 0.26	3.44
Select Portfolio	83.26	88.50†	- 0.39	
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
0452 305 959				
Amby Income	72.57	77.00	- 0.32	2.64
Income Builder Inc	65.86	70.06†	- 0.44	3.03
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRSTS PLC				
IFA dlg: 0793 610 366 Client dlg: 0793 514 514				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	217.30	232.20	- 1.50	3.35
Capital	384.30	410.70	- 2.40	2.01
Balanced	642.80	687.20†	- 4.40	2.88
Accumulator	511.84	512.65	- 0.00	3.21
Income Trusts				
American Income	45.61	48.75	+ 0.14	3.85
High Income	366.70	384.10	- 2.70	3.92
Equity Income	208.50	222.90	- 1.40	2.74
High Yield	228.40	242.80	- 1.30	3.59
Gilt Securities	32.18	33.97†	+ 0.03	6.24
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	135.10	144.40	+ 0.70	0.46
European Growth	32.85	35.12	+ 0.08	2.88
International	155.80	165.80	- 0.60	0.29
Japan	210.70	224.70†	- 0.70	0.01
Pacific	396.90	412.50†	- 1.20	0.01
Spec of America	387.20	422.70†	+ 0.20	0.55
Worldwide Asset Val	46.22	49.40	- 0.01	0.24
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	488.60	523.30†	- 3.00	2.44
Conv & Gilt	41.84	44.72	- 0.11	5.15
Smaller Cos	158.70	170.70†	- 0.10	1.30
2nd Smaller Cos	152.30	162.80†	- 0.10	1.46
Recovery	127.40	136.10	- 0.60	1.83
Mid Men & Cnty	142.70	153.60	- 1.10	0.77
Uncts Earnings	326.70	349.20†	- 2.70	1.99
Technology	156.90	167.70	- 0.50	0.07
UK Special Sits	421.30	451.00	- 1.50	1.92
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0293 526 911				
Cnvctd Dst Perp	94.98	98.69	..	3.06
Foundtn Perpl Pens	89.02	92.56	..	2.78
BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 600 0033				
Capital	67.02	71.30†	- 0.41	1.97
International	62.12	66.09†	..	..
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
031 222 4242				
America	259.20	280.80	+ 0.80	..
Bond	107.90	112.70†	..	7.97
Exit Sml Cos	93.00	99.79†	- 0.04	1.51
Conv & Exc #	84.09	88.17	+ 0.10	5.48
Europe	212.50	224.80	+ 0.30	0.51
Euro Smlr Cos	97.91	103.86	..	0.62
Income Gwth	331.20	353.50	- 0.30	4.48
Japan	322.30	342.40	- 1.80	..
Latin American	74.35	79.00	- 0.40	2.48
Pacific	108.10	106.50	+ 0.50	0.75
UK Smlr Cos	58.06	53.20†	+ 0.05	1.30
Japan Fd	729.20	751.10	- 1.80	..
Mngd Fd	165.70	176.20	- 0.50	2.98
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
071 488 8573				
Bal & Gtaes	368.20	382.30		1.31
Capital Gwth	104.80	110.10		2.44
Wrldw Opps	175.80	184.84		0.44
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
081 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Brd Inv Fd Inc	326.20	338.80	- 3.0	3.11
European Bd Inc	88.06	91.15		7.75
Exempt	69.54	74.18	- 0.64	4.45
Financial	68.67	73.44†	- 0.48	3.11
50/50	424.70	454.20	- 3.50	2.87
General	259.90	278.00	- 1.80	2.81
Property	247.10	264.30†		6.27
Trustee	169.20	180.90†	- 1.80	2.53
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.00	100.00†		4.68
Extra Income	118.80	118.80	- 0.80	4.31
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.45	57.31†	+ 0.12	9.9
Income	466.20	532.90	- 4.0	4.25
Income Bullion	60.43	64.29	- 0.40	1.98
Intl Income	59.19	62.97†		3.73
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	111.10	118.50	- 1.10	2.72
Exclusiv	116.80	125.00	- 0.40	1.54
Recovery	398.40	417.80	- 3.50	2.16
Smlr Cos Inc	41.75	44.78	+ 0.12	1.98
Special Sits	368.40	381.70	- 3.0	1.55
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	119.80	127.20	+ 0.30	0.71
Aust Acc	228.40	242.40	+ 1.80	2.42
Aust Inc	145.40	154.70†	- 1.10	2.42
Euro Earth Inc	144.40	153.10	- 0.40	0.64
(Accum Units)	154.50	163.80	- 0.40	0.64
Japan & Gen Inc	178.80	189.40	- 1.50	..
(Accum Units)	180.80	197.60	- 1.50	..
Japan Spec Sits	82.37	87.26	- 0.80	..
Unit Tech Inc	76.16	80.03	- 0.40	0.13
Worldwide	161.40	171.30†	- 1.0	0.77
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
081 668 9002				
American Growth	88.02	93.49	+ 0.09	..
Amer Smlr Cos	122.00	129.50	- 0.07	5.79
Convertibles	53.50	57.21†	- 0.07	..
Eastern	255.20	276.90	- 1.40	0.19
Equity Income	84.73	90.15	- 0.51	4.90
European Growth	282.30	298.50	- 2.30	1.38
Europe	208.10	221.90†	+ 0.90	0.98
German Growth	68.96	73.06	- 0.11	0.10
Global Bond	61.78	64.54	+ 0.02	6.40
Global Growth	118.70	126.60	- 0.60	..
Japan Growth	328.80	349.20		..
Japan Smlr Cos	177.70	189.20		..
Korea Trust	75.27	80.52	- 2.01	..
Portfolio	125.00	133.90	- 0.40	1.89
(Accum Units)	228.00	244.10	- 0.70	1.89
UK Growth	73.75	84.83	- 0.57	1.40
UK Smaller Cos	127.40	136.10	- 0.60	1.83
Select Managers	70.87	75.80	- 0.27	1.10
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
071 250 3000				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	74.91	79.37	..	..
Special Oppor Inc	53.74	57.17	..	..
BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD				
071 236 6441				
Special Sits	166.80	177.50	+ 0.80	1.58
Directors	61.03	67.50	- 1.67	3.94
Int Sts & Inc	201.10	215.10†	- 0.90	3.58
Int. & Gen	42.51	45.47	- 0.53	1.94
Fund of Funds	61.40	65.67	- 0.16	..
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
041 223 6000				
Managed Growth	99.36	105.15	- 0.99	1.97
(Accum Units)	111.70	118.20	- 1.11	1.97
Smaller Cos	99.82	105.63	+ 3.70	1.26
Higher Yield #	41.88	44.32†	- 0.26	4.69
American Gth Inc	124.60	132.40	- 1.20	..
European Growth	129.01	136.52	- 1.84	..
(Accum Units)	131.55	139.21	- 1.88	..
Global Bond Inc #	25.78	26.71†	+ 0.04	7.63
Mngd Pfolio Inc	42.17	42.46	- 0.19	1.80
(Accum Units)	43.74	43.10	- 0.20	1.80
Int Spec Opps	109.97	116.37	+ 0.64	..
Pacific Gwth	122.51	129.64	- 1.25	..
Property Units				
Property Unit	71.17	75.31†	- 0.72	8.73
UK General #	72.92	77.16	- 0.74	8.73
(Accum Units) #	84.09	87.85	- 0.47	..
Japan	92.44	94.33†	+ 0.33	7.53
Bal & Fixed Int #				
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
071 480 7215				
Shrd Dated Gilt	64.35	65.18	+ 0.11	6.22
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
061 832 5050				
Europe	145.10	155.50†	- 0.50	1.75
UK Growth	157.70	167.80	- 1.90	2.43
UK Income	128.00	134.10	- 0.80	4.52
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0705 661 122				
Can Earn Fxd	178.50	188.20	- 1.10	2.09
Can Earn Ext	103.50	109.00	- 0.80	4.55
-do- Income Dist	202.60	309.48	- 1.79	4.55
(Accum Units)	39.65	41.40	+ 0.10	0.57
Bal & Fxd Int				
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
081 208 5685 Exp: 081 206 5685 Dlg: 081 938 6382				
American & Gen	141.90	150.90	..	0.51
European Inc	74.35	78.88	- 0.06	2.02
Smaller Cos (4-11)	76.43	81.31	- 0.02	2.42
Sovereign	398.60	424.10	- 2.30	4.18
Income & Growth	382.80	406.30	- 2.30	4.10
(Accum Units)	539.20	573.80	- 0.50	..
Japan & Gen	73.57	78.18	- 0.46	1.80
Master Portfolio	533.03	5101.841	- 98.00	2.05
(Accum Units)	5116.98	5121.52	- 12.00	2.05
Special Sits	91.09	96.91†	+ 0.48	2.49
High Yield	612.32	612.72	- 0.00	4.65
For Capital House see Hambro				
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
071 606 0788				
Consolv Portfolio	78.73	84.021	- 0.30	2.31
American Portfolio	85.36	90.95†	+ 0.09	1.27
European Portfolio	91.48	97.56	- 0.09	0.82
Japanese Portfolio	66.00	70.89†	- 0.14	..
Pacific Portfolio	126.67	148.89†	+ 0.21	0.89
UK Inc & Growth	72.56	77.88	- 0.30	3.28
Utility & Gnrl	54.08	54.69	- 0.25	6.91
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
071 588 1815				
Inv Fund	645.85	651.10	- 0.25	4.75
Fxd In Soc	147.10	147.45	- 0.55	9.83
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
071 332 5000				
Uh General Tst	60.72	64.59	- 0.34	3.66
CGNU-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
071 506 1815				
Inc	686.32	640.19	- 3.05	4.68
Accum	627.23	627.25	+ 14.81	..
Inc (Accum Units)	119.50	119.75	- 1.20	9.69
(Accum Units)	185.15	185.45	- 0.72	..
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
071 637 7997				
Intl Growth	118.58	129.88†		..
Uh Income	104.16	113.69†		5.267
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
071 407 5966				
Blackwood Intl	71.92	76.93		1.59
Black Bln-Tech	23.12	25.65†	+ 0.30	..
Accm Ethical Tst	148.45	154.17†		1.65
City Fin Assets	85.61	89.80		1.28
City Fin America	80.38	84.51		..
City Fin Intl	74.35	78.15		0.95
City Fin Japan	168.59	177.89†		..
Fidss Inco Cap	258.21	260.44†		1.98
Fidss Inco Inc	191.92	204.17		4.13
Smaller World Gth	124.54	131.07		0.49
Fidelity Cap Gth	132.79	141.27	- 0.50	..
Fidelity Intl	145.76	155.66	- 0.48	..
City Fin Pfilio Inc	98.88	54.13†	- 0.54	4.44
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
071 711 0771 Admin: 0277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.36	57.68	- 0.23	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	53.04	59.72	- 0.01	..
Atlas Mngd Gwth	34.73	37.44	- 0.05	0.37
Dragon Growth	65.63	70.19	- 0.16	0.58
Equity High Inc	78.94	83.09†	- 0.43	4.14
(Accum Units)	108.13	111.72	- 0.59	4.14
European Gwth	48.28	51.24	- 0.15	0.81
Evergreen	27.21	29.10	- 0.09	..
General Equity	79.03	83.85	- 0.56	2.69
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	24.53	24.75†	+ 0.09	8.54
Japan Growth	62.58	66.75	- 0.40	..
Property Gwth	21.77	23.76	+ 0.13	2.75
Pref Shr Cos Inc	29.15	31.01	- 0.02	1.25
(Accum Units)	30.29	32.22	- 0.02	1.30
Retirement Inc #	24.78	25.22†	- 0.11	8.05
Sterling Inc	26.15	28.25	- 0.11	8.05
UK & Overseas	45.82	48.74	- 0.06	1.30
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
0634 868 000				
Capital	63.08	67.46	- 0.39	2.36
Income	57.20	61.17	- 0.06	4.32
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
081 686 9818				
PRECISE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	148.78	158.26	- 0.68	5.67
Fixed & Convertible	39.59	41.65†	- 0.06	7.45
Monthly Inc Plus	48.94	48.94	..	6.97
Preference Share	45.48	48.36†	..	7.84
Balanced Funds				
Equity Yield	118.51	126.07†	- 0.43	5.18
Managed Fund	84.09	88.69	- 0.53	5.18
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	37.43	39.82	- 0.04	1.79
(Accum Units)	42.82	45.54	- 0.05	1.79
UK & General	73.45	78.14	- 0.09	2.84
(Accum Units)	91.63	97.80	- 0.60	2.84
UK Growth	153.20	141.70	- 0.89	2.41
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	183.46	195.17	+ 0.45	0.25
Far Eastern Gwth	128.83	137.05	- 0.75	..
Global Bond	74.58	79.25	+ 0.08	6.39
Japan Growth	123.56	131.23	- 1.25	..
North Amer Gth	158.58	168.58	- 0.03	..
Pacific Growth	73.20	77.77	- 0.17	..
Worldwide Growth	82.12	86.89	- 0.84	0.08
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.45	92.45	+ 0.01	5.22
Intermediate Fund	96.22	97.51	- 0.28	1.84
Debtor Fund	122.02	129.81	- 1.71	3.92
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD				
0438 744 840				
Balanced	54.58	58.05†	- 0.20	3.20
(Accum Units)	59.12	62.86	- 0.21	3.20
High Income	31.95	33.98	- 0.08	4.90
Japan	36.16	38.46	- 0.12	..
Smaller Cos Inc	28.16	31.04†	+ 0.02	2.68
Smaller Cos	30.90	32.87	+ 0.04	0.50
North American	31.89	33.91	+ 0.04	0.50
European	36.57	37.93	+ 0.09	0.50
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
071 407 5966				
Consistent UT	29.84	31.59	..	3.38
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	135.10	143.80	+ 0.10	2.08
Income	68.17	72.53	- 0.20	5.16
European	58.72	62.47†	- 0.02	1.17
Recovery	145.90	155.30	- 0.10	2.02
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
071 288 9494				
Equity Dist	776.29	788.30†	....	3.82
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
0277 680 570				
Fellowship Tst	68.67	72.41	- 0.25	1.35
Income #	224.00	238.20	- 0.80	4.80
(Accum Units) #	567.30	598.70	- 2.20	4.80
Smaller Cos	148.10	157.30	- 0.10	0.62
(Accum Units)	181.00	192.50	- 0.10	0.62
Far Pacific	74.46	79.21	- 0.05	1.51
High Inc Port #	85.39	89.56	- 0.52	5.18
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
071 410 0177				
Euro Small Cos	114.98	115.39†	+ 12.30	..
Japan Small Cos	112.38	112.61†	+ 12.00	..
UK Small Cos	217.05	217.76†	+ 5.20	..
US Small Cos	215.44	215.97	+ 12.80	..
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
071 377 8818				
Disc Inc	203.20	213.80†	..	2.65
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
031 315 2000				
European Gwth	268.30	274.20	- 0.90	1.02
New Asia	202.70	216.30	+ 0.30	0.16
Japan Growth	121.40	129.10	- 0.20	..
Asia Smlr Co	485.20	505.40	- 0.80	..
Pan Asian	244.40	259.00	+ 1.30	0.92
Global Asia Pac Hi	112.80	119.50	+ 0.10	0.38
UK Inc & Gwth	199.10	212.40	- 1.80	3.13
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
0345 697 555				
UK Balanced Inc	131.50	139.90	- 1.10	1.91
UK High Inc Inc	140.00	148.90	- 1.30	4.84
(Accum Units)	179.30	190.70	- 1.66	4.84
UK Fxd & FI Inc	55.45	58.87	+ 0.15	5.53
Earnshed Dpsr	79.97	84.75	- 0.35	1.71
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 696 695				
American	113.90	120.70	- 0.10	1.45
Convertibles #	19.89	20.92†	- 0.05	6.88
Equity Income #	119.10	126.50†	- 0.30	4.19
Eurofund	43.04	45.69†	- 0.16	0.44
Financial	43.57	44.69	- 0.33	1.83
Growth & Inc #	220.30	234.10	- 0.40	3.43
High Dist #	144.20	153.90	- 0.90	4.89
International	167.60	180.60	- 2.80	0.13
Int Cap Inc	89.01	95.95†	- 0.53	2.89
Latin American	33.29	35.37	- 1.03	..
Pacific	76.10	84.04	- 0.34	..
Preference Share	21.45	22.78†	+ 0.02	7.24
Tokyo	229.40	243.70	- 1.20	..
UK Smaller Cos	214.40	227.80	+ 0.30	1.27
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
071 242 0242				
Eliza Trust	202.11	215.76	+ 1.28	1.94
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 373 7291				
Endurance Fd	191.40	203.69	- 3.20	0.94
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0286 451 480				
European	75.75	78.74	- 0.32	1.66
Ethical Tst	43.00	45.26	- 0.03	1.47
Far Eastern	258.60	303.20	- 0.17	1.57
High Income	122.98	129.45	- 0.50	4.89
Intl Growth	115.51	121.59	- 0.06	1.37
North American	103.53	108.98	- 0.07	1.34
Pelican	168.78	175.55	- 0.02	2.54
Smaller Cos	65.27	68.76†	+ 0.02	2.54
Special Sits	83.75	88.18	- 0.07	2.66
Tst of Tsts	176.75	186.06	- 0.81	1.55
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 497 5969				
Smaller Cos Inc	197.14	205.25	+ 0.30	1.43
Smaller Cos Acc	544.95	568.52	+ 0.83	1.43
Recovery	50.76	52.87†	+ 0.27	1.34
Recovery Acc	51.30	53.44†	+ 0.28	1.34
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0392 412 144				
Balanced	106.22	113.00†	- 0.17	6.15
Capital Growth	76.81	82.37	- 0.41	..
Fd of Inv Trts	88.49	93.09	- 0.56	3.59
High Income #	41.54	44.52	- 0.03	10.33
Recovery	53.12	57.74	- 0.30	..
Zero Preference	38.04	38.24†	- 0.05	..
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
0272 299 707				
Family Assets Tst	72.46	77.69†	- 0.45	2.54
Family Income Tst	45.30	45.39†	- 0.29	6.14
Family Trust	79.75	84.65†	- 0.68	1.26
United Charities	258.10	266.10†	- 1.70	3.59
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callers: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	..	5.40
Bond Funds				
Bond & Fxd Int	26.26	26.36	+ 0.03	7.94
Intl Bond	26.98	27.95	..	5.55
Income Funds				
High Income	24.38	25.60†	- 0.02	5.19
Income Plus	105.80	112.00†	- 0.30	6.24
Managed Inc	44.48	47.06	+ 0.21	1.43
Equity Income	40.42	42.58	+ 0.05	1.97
European Income	60.16	64.02	- 0.24	2.17
Special Situations	21.85	23.31†	- 0.13	3.62
UK Div Gwth	22.99	24.45	- 0.11	1.50
Equity Funds				
ASSIM *	81.55	85.86	+ 0.37	..
Americas	228.00	238.70	+ 0.80	..
Amer Spec Sits	107.90	115.10	- 0.20	..
Japan Smaller Cos	49.34	43.65	- 0.07	..
European	162.50	172.60	+ 0.29	..
European Opps	60.70	64.55	+ 0.05	..
Global Priv	72.38	74.93	+ 0.02	1.18
UK Growth	84.68	90.04	- 0.17	..
Growth & Inc	133.10	141.66†	+ 0.20	2.56
Intl PEP	94.91	97.12	- 0.05	..
Japan Spec Sits	92.48	98.48	- 0.35	..
Japan	198.10	209.20	- 0.40	..
Managed Intl	251.70	278.80	+ 0.40	..
Moneyfunder	50.62	53.85		..
Recovery	45.55	48.44	- 0.06	..
South E Asia	137.60	146.80	+ 2.00	..
Special Sits	481.90	523.10	+ 3.90	..
Specialist Funds				
Distn Accum Units	107.69	107.69	+ 0.01	5.40
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
071 614 2700				
Balanced #	131.70	134.80	..	1.58
Inc Portfo #	88.48	93.09	- 0.06	3.89
Cap Profile	135.60	138.20†	- 0.50	0.75
General Opps	118.40	118.50		3.54
Growth Inc	98.94	98.68	- 0.18	1.80
Private Portfolio	982.30	988.90	..	1.51
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Exp: 071 454 1494 Dlg: 0277 291 010				
Hypo-Foreign & Colonial				
European	167.40	173.50	- 0.10	0.48
Emerg Asian	158.30	169.20	- 0.20	..
High Income	29.72	32.06†	- 0.05	11.69
Overs Income	88.50	94.70†	+ 0.35	3.38
International	75.65	80.47	- 0.27	0.39
Geology	76.51	81.39	+ 0.06	1.32
European	115.09	122.16	- 0.30	..
Far Eastern	301.60	320.80	- 1.60	..
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 071 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Euro Income	47.27	50.29†	- 0.21	7.65
High Yield	111.10	117.39†	+ 0.10	6.85
Global Income	204.20	217.20	- 0.54	4.19
High Yield	131.10	139.50†	- 0.74	6.34
(Accum Units)	386.40	421.70†	- 3.34	6.34
Smlr Cos Dlr	48.75	52.35	- 0.05	3.00
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	83.43	88.76	- 0.65	..
North American	76.99	75.52†	+ 0.03	0.17
European Special	92.94	98.

هكذا في الاصل

Share prices continue to slide

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	398	Abbey Nat	432	+ 2	4.5	14.5
314	238	Allied Irish	272	+ 3	4.6	10.5
378½	171	Aus New Z	206	– 3	6.0	*
3300	2462½	Bank America	3512½	+ 37½		
247	172½	Bank Scotland	208	– 1½	3.2	11.7
648	487	Barclays	606	– 3	3.4	14.8
319	246	Bk of Ireland	301	+ 1	4.8	8.7
2912½	2282½	Chase Cp	2675	+ 25		
265½	203	Close Bros	253		4.2	10.1
£150½	£121½	Commercial	£134½	+12½	6.1	
£296½	£256½	Dis Tst Pan Y	£195½		0.5	
£344½	£270½	Deutsche Bk	£292½	–20½	2.3	
1315½	767½	Ecclesiastic	815½		4.7	4.1
90	56½	First Nat Fin	59		3.2	*
1540½	1152½	First Sctsh I	1360½	– 3	8.4	*
473	308	Hambros	338	– 7	7.9	14.6
1113	860	HSBC	988	– 7	4.5	9.9
1133	824	HSBC Inc	974	– 6	4.5	9.8
443	406	Joseph (L)	408		5.4	11.9
693	494	Kleinwort Ben	533		4.4	9.7
980	515	Lloyds	566	– 4	5.2	10.9
537½	472	Nat Aust Bk	508	– 1	7.7	*
522	421	Nat Westr	494	– 8	4.9	9.6
3300	2100	Ottoman Bank	2950		6.8	*
79	55	Rea Bros	66		1.8	18.5
559	377½	Ref Bk Scotl	390	– 7	4.4	9.4
1570	1080	Schroders	1446	– 12	1.6	13.3
1458	1043	Schroders NV	1318	– 10	1.8	12.1
114	75	Singer & Fried	86		4.6	11.1
3697	2333	Stand Chart	2769	– 7	3.9	9.2
291	197	TSB	227	+ 1	4.3	11.9
1312	969	Westmins Gp	1088	– 5	4.8	12.6
2105	3612½	Wells Fargo	9412½	+ 31½	2.9	
260	194	Westpac	211	– 2½	3.6	*
358	265	Yorkshire	315	+ 2	8.0	14.4

BREWERIES

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1215	750	Allied Lyons	1169	– 1		
919	685	Bass	904	+ 1	5.0	13.2
290	248	Bodington	265		4.1	13.7
196	163	Burtonwd Brwr	175		3.6	14.7
181	142	Dunlop P 'A'	155		3.3	*
86	464	Fosters Brewing	86	– 2	5.4	*
463	352	Holt Jos 'A'	458	+ 4	3.8	14.4
511	399	Greenalls Gpf	493		3.9	20.9
534	465	Greene Kingf	528	+ 2	3.1	14.3
265	210	Hardy Hanse	258		4.7	*
170	135	Hawthrne	159		1.4	13.5
3173	3125	Holt J	3400		1.8	18.7
246	195	Matchwtt	238		2.4	14.6
314	256	Morlan Thompt	307	– 3	2.5	14.9
545	440	Morland	453	– 2	3.0	13.6
10¾	6½	Ransomes	7		3.6	*
324	259	Regnis Ipco	324	+ 2	2.1	24.8
1995½	1000	SA Breweries	1500½	– 9½	1.9	23.3
597	477	Scot & Newc	497½	– 9½	4.4	14.2
336	215	Vaux Groupd	231	+ 6	5.6	12.5
457	334½	Wetherspoon JD	456	+ 2	1.8	25.1
617	494	Whitbread A	585	– 13	4.3	15.7
383	433	Whitbread Inv	533		3.3	13.6
194	148	Wm Brent	190		2.5	15.0
535	465	Young 'A'	465		4.0	19.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
355	120	Abbey	158	+ 10	4.4	10.8
200	142	Alfred McAl	190		4.4	15.0
164	84½	Amec	92	– 2	5.6	38.7
165	47	Andrew Sykes	133			
462	333	Arnold	424	+ 2	1.6	26.7
195	107	Ashtead	184		5.3	13.9
41	26	Barry (Basil) Con	35		2.5	21.4
88	19½	Barcom	36	– 4		
282	139	Barrat Devt	161	– 2	4.7	12.5
1851	1325	Beaby Homes	1538		5.3	10.1
178	119	Bellway	161	+ 1	4.4	*
59	31	BeCarrick	34			29.9
573	326	Berkeley Sgt	336	– 1	2.7	10.7
215	118	Bet Bros	178		3.2	9.5
215	210	Bpp (Hldg)	210	+ 3	3.6	11.6
93	35	Brandon Hire	93		2.0	*
235	160	Br Bldg & Engr	160		6.2	10.0
197½	115	Bryant	115	– 2	4.4	12.9
1450	1060	CALA	1145		3.5	14.5
34	31	Carroll & Ass	34½			
44	44	Castle T	49		3.2	41.6
40	25½	Costain	29½	– ½		
185	107	Countrywide	107	– 2	5.1	*
128	73	Crest Nicholson	75		2.7	13.9
248	56	Cussons	97		4.4	11.7
39	17	Edmund Hldgs	18		2.1	*
473	273	Eve Group	273		5.1	11.0
69	24	Galliford	26		4.6	*
112	87	Gilbt & Dorey	88		3.6	*
1028	823	Gleeson (MJ)	828		2.1	14.2
88	77	Green (Eric)	82		2.8	26.2
191	121	Hamilton Oxo	178		3.4	16.3
188	132	Hawtin-Stuart	139		2.7	16.8
144	96	Higgs & Hill	98	– 2	3.5	*
52	29	Holland Hldgs	32		4.5	20.5
35	6	Jarvis	11			
184	104	Kelly	116		5.1	13.4
428	204	Laing (J)	219	– 1	5.1	19.8
164	99½	Laing (John) Pl	99½	+ ½	8.4	*
145	115	Lon Clydesdale	132		4.9	16.9
175	53	Lovell (Y)	53		2.1	15.9
253	186	Marsden (J)	210	+ 1	3.3	*
321	154	McAlpine (A)	171	+ 1	4.8	25.1
78½	59½	McCarthy & S	59			
169½	94	Morrison (J)	102		2.5	19.2
379½	182	Pecksmoss	194	– 1½	5.9	14.5
2109½	1450	Pochin	2109½		1.9	21.1
198	124	Prestigel	124	– 1	3.6	18.9
116	44½	Raine Ind	47½		7.5	9.9
61	45	Sectors Repro	45	– 1		11.4
132	94	Redpth	97		3.5	9.6
87	59	Swift-Pro	59		5.0	11.6
385	253	Sheriff Hldgs	385		1.9	16.1
117	42	Sirdar	109		4.2	15.3
245	195	Smart (J)	210		5.1	23.0
180	155½	Speedlert	288		1.1	21.6
357	151	Tay Homes	170		4.7	12.5
1618	1148½	Taylor Woodrw	1522	– 1	1.8	29.5
1183	1035	Tilbury Dowds	1150		5.2	13.5
61	36	Tarbs Hire	60	– 1	2.8	*
49½	20	Try Group	20		3.1	*
129	90	Vibroplant	108	– 1	4.3	19.4
170	115	Westbrnmnst	115		5.3	12.4
74	48	Ward Hldgs	53	+ 2	1.2	*
225½	132	Westburst	139		4.9	12.6
7½	3½	Wiggins	5½			
259	154	Wilson (C)	168		3.3	13.3
571	354	Wilson Bowdn	532		3.7	14.4
248	135	Wimpey G	155	+ 2	5.2	18.7

BUILDING MATERIALS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
77	51	Albrighton	74		4.5	23.6
161	121	Alumasc	138		2.2	*
69	49	Amberley Grt	51		3.1	26.2
383	274	BPB Ind	288½	+ 2½	3.6	14.8
142	92	Beggridge Brn	102		3.2	*
84	39	Benton	78			
88	39	Bensted Ian	38½		0.3	68.3
69	39	Blackwood	41		1.7	
274	214	Blue Circle	274	– 3	5.1	19.5
74	23	Bmstone PLC	74		5.4	22.3
46	29	Br Dredging	31		5.3	15.8
369	274	CRH	369	+ 6	1.7	18.3
5	2	Cakemaker Hldg	4			4.1
273	166	Caradon	253		4.4	17.0
168	114	Chelsea Gdns	168½	– 1	7.0	*
114	70	Charles Ch Gp	114		7.0	10.8
134	94	Chrstn Slnsct	134		6.1	10.5
215	114	Cookson	214		5.1	*
1½	½	Crest Nicholson	1½			
41	26	Crouch Group	41		4.1	10.3
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'A'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'B'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'C'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'D'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'E'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'F'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'G'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'H'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'I'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'J'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'K'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'L'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'M'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'N'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'O'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'P'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'Q'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'R'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'S'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'T'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'U'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'V'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'W'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'X'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'Y'	1½			
1½	½	Cumbr Mtrl 'Z'	1½			

DISTRIBUTORS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
127	105	ABI Lstrl	105		4.8	*
317	248	Acatt	314	– 1	2.8	17.0
580	253	Adam & Harvey	580		3.3	7.4
31	21	Alexandrs	21		3.8	19.5
175	111	Appleyard	171	– 2	6.5	19.8
6	3¼	Ass Br Eng	4½		1.1	62.1
578	495	BSS Group†	518		4.4	16.3
25½	17	Bramley Powert	23		5.4	*
465	249	Brierley Mtr	255		5.1	10.5
40	28	Bulgnd 'A'†	28		3.1	11.8
370	288	Bunzl	354	+ 4	4.6	19.7
31	15½	Bwgrnd Gp	16		1.6	2.3
99	78	Brt Tmbrs	88		3.2	*
71	48	Brown & Tawse	62	+ 2		
97	65	Burndene	97		6.7	*
51	36	Cahoy†	36		5.4	44.0
99	24½	Capital Pkt	26½		3.2	14.7
130	84	Central Mtr	88		5.2	21.2
51	37½	Cook (DG)†	42		5.4	12.9
342½	197½	Corna A	329	+ 3	5.0	11.4
182½	127	Dng Motors	136		5.9	15.9
539½	391	Evans Halshw	538	– 2	4.5	12.3
656	490½	Farrell Elect	542	– 1	3.9	21.7
78	58	Fife Indmr	58		5.9	8.5
34	15½	Gardner	15½	– ½	6.9	7.4
46	19	Glendevon	23½			25.9
465	345	Gpwings	373		3.4	20.2
78	58	Hallen Hldgs	73			56.2
182	122	Harris (Philip)†	166	– 1	5.2	14.6
3429	2664	Hoskys	3297		3.5	14.3
191	88	Holdcrs Tech	118		5.3	10.9
138	110	ISA Ind	118		3.8	13.7
688	536	Inchcape	657	– 1	4.5	14.0
56	35	Jacks (Wm)	56		4.0	16.1
184	146	Park-Pk	161		3.0	19.2
570	391	Lex Service	388		5.8	11.5
265	163	Lookers	193		4.5	12.8
30	14	Mallen Grp	21		2.1	*
3	3½	Matthews G	3½			
465	249	Mayflower	255		5.1	10.5
40	28	Bulgnd 'A'†	28		3.1	11.8
370	288	Brierley Mtr	354	+ 4	4.6	19.7
31	15½	Bwgrnd Gp	16		1.6	2.3
99	78	Brt Tmbrs	88		3.2	*
71	48	Brown & Tawse	62	+ 2		
97	65	Burndene	97		6.7	*
51	36	Cahoy†	36		5.4	44.0
99	24½	Capital Pkt	26½		3.2	14.7
130	84	Central Mtr	88		5.2	21.2
51	37½	Cook (DG)†	42		5.4	12.9
342½	197½	Corna A	329	+ 3	5.0	11.4
182½	127	Dng Motors	136		5.9	15.9
539½	391	Evans Halshw	538	– 2	4.5	12.3
656	490½	Farrell Elect	542	– 1	3.9	21.7
78	58	Fife Indmr	58		5.9	8.5
34	15½	Gardner	15½	– ½	6.9	7.4
46	19	Glendevon	23½			25.9
465	345	Gpwings	373		3.4	20.2
78	58	Hallen Hldgs	73			56.2
182	122	Harris (Philip)†	166	– 1	5.2	14.6
3429	2664	Hoskys	3297		3.5	14.3
191	88	Holdcrs Tech	118		5.3	10.9
138	110	ISA Ind	118		3.8	13.7
688	536	Inchcape	657	– 1	4.5	14.0
56	35	Jacks (Wm)	56		4.0	16.1
184	146	Park-Pk	161		3.0	19.2
570	391	Lex Service	388		5.8	11.5
265	163	Lookers	193		4.5	12.8
30	14	Mallen Grp	21		2.1	*
3	3½	Matthews G	3½			
465	249	Mayflower	255		5.1	10.5

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
372	145	Ackrill	156		6.0	15.9
388	199½	Amalgamtd	313		1.4	35.3
97	46	Amcort	48	– ½	4.7	10.0
897	773½	Bmsn Hld	848	– 9	3.3	37.0
372	274	BTR	342	– ½	3.2	14.5
570	372	BAT	441	+ 2	5.9	11.5
91	49	Bibby (JH)	72		5.2	*
71	44	Brentnr Inv	49½	– ½	9.5	*
836	636½	Charter†	795	+ 1	3.7	13.0
396	226	Coalcon	338	+ 3	3.5	39.6
362	217½	Messent	338½		8.3	16.3
230	136	Harrsn Cridlr	142	+ 6	7.9	16.2
1825	239½	Hutch Whmp	334½	– 3½	2.3	17.4
710	429½	Jardine Math	531	+ 3½	2.8	16.6
36	27½	Jourdan (T)	29		4.3	28.8
1750	1245	Lonrho	1552½	– 1½	3.3	41.9
44	16	Porter Chadbn	41			
1660	1150	Powell Duffryn	1493		6.3	14.4
164	118½	Ropner	128	+ 1	7.3	14.6
489	337	Rotork††	465	– 8	5.4	21.6
34½	9½	Salton	11½			4.4
5399	391	Sime Darby†	5399		4.5	12.3
358	4907	Tarmac	543	– 7	7.3	21.7
78	58	Tate Indmr	58		5.9	8.5
109	69	Tarmac Ord	109		6.9	7.4
71	13	Tarmac Inv	71			25.9
99	80	Tomkins	94		3.4	20.2
188	132	Tunnel Hldgs	188	– 1	5.2	14.6
3429	2664	Hoskys	3297		3.5	14.3
191	88	Holdcrs Tech	118		5.3	10.9
138	110	ISA Ind	118		3.8	13.7
688	536	Inchcape	657	– 1	4.5	14.0
56	35	Jacks (Wm)	56		4.0	16.1
184	146	Park-Pk	161		3.0	19.2
570	391	Lex Service	388		5.8	11.5
265	163	Lookers	193		4.5	12.8
30	14	Mallen Grp	21		2.1	*
3	3½	Matthews G	3½			
465	249	Mayflower	255		5.1	10.5

ELECTRICITY

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
894½	610½	Elec Midlands	819	– 15	4.3	14.1
886	686	Eastern Elec	773	– 4	4.0	16.7
886	635	Manweb	860	– 12	4.0	10.2
1010	804½	Midlands Elec	794	– 11	4.0	12.0
5000	4045	Midland Power†	4476	– 8	3.4	13.1
1010	804½	Northern Elec	998	– 12	4.0	12.0
671	513	Nthn Ireland	558	– 1	4.2	9.6
867	667	Norweb†	825	– 15	3.7	10.9
898	649	PowerGen	838	– 3	3.3	17.4
477	367	Hydro-Elec	427	+ 1	5.0	10.2
486	335	Scottish Power	398	– 3	4.8	10.5
490	398	Seaboard†	457	– 6	3.4	12.1
912	691	Sth Wales	896	– 10	4.2	11.9
888	651	Sth Western	861	– 7	3.7	11.3
837	540	Southern Elec	794	– 7	3.9	11.4
795	532	Yorkshire Elec	730	+ 3	4.2	14.1

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
188	63	Acorn Comp	97			
1000	478	Admtrol	536		1.3	19.5
268	163	Alba	198	– 2	3.3	15.2
268	126½	Amstrad	133	– 1	2.3	*
39	24	Arlen	36			
94½	78	Aztec	85½	– ½	1.3	17.1
391	118	Adept	135	+ 1	2.8	10.9
478	335	BICC	364	– 5	6.6	22.3
263	238	Baltic Hsmar	246		4.9	*
16	7	Barleday Bus	8½	– ½		
5350	3800	Bick	4500	+ 5	3.4	*
1000	280	Bowthorpe	290		3.8	16.7
29½	14½	Bulgn (AF) 'A'	19½	+ ½	1.5	17.5
263	198	CML Micro	198		3.8	12.6
280	30	Chloride†	30	– ½	0.6	63.8
180	81	Comnmnty	110		4.9	*
468	448½	Cray Elect	468	+ 1	3.8	18.1
468	412	Critchley†	468	+ 1	2.5	19.8
488	408	Data Sc Syst	488	+ 14	0.6	26.6
488	408	Delta	488	+ 4	4.1	19.2
560	488	Domino	560		4.1	23.7
3796½	3300	Dowding Mnc	3796½		4.5	28.9
1635	1200	Druck	1480		1.0	27.2
3796½	3300	Electrocomp	3796½		3.7	14.8
2030	1736	Electronic Rt	1942½	– 34½	1.7	16.8
3962	2737½	Filtronic	3962	– 9½	1.7	30.8
4040½	2737½	Filtronic 'B'	3962	– 9½	1.7	30.8
88	56	Eurotherm	71	– 4	3.5	*
451	343	Farnell Elect	451		3.5	17.7
410	334½	Farey Group	410		1.5	21.4
191	105	Forward Tech	191		2.3	23.5
241	114½	Fwrdnd Sctr	241	– 2	5.1	13.4
1½	½	GEC†	1½			
1½	½	Gardner	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'A'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'B'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'C'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'D'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'E'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'F'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'G'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'H'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'I'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'J'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'K'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'L'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'M'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'N'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'O'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'P'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'Q'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'R'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'S'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'T'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'U'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'V'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'W'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'X'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'Y'	1½			
1½	½	Gardner 'Z'	1½			

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
66	31	AAF Ints	33			
168	108	Aaltoon Sccam	158		3.1	15.6
1160	1000	Aaron Rudnert	1000		4.5	*
235	173	BBA	206	– 2	2.7	*
85½	54	BSG	55½	– 1	7.2	34.7
18½	8½	Bamford	8½		2.4	17.1
280	189	Bestcon Group	189		3.9	14.4
64	39	Bestorms	39		5.5	17.1
29½	17	Caparo	20		3.5	*
12	11½	Caverdale	12		16.7	12.2
332	275	CRH	328	+ 2	1.5	*
373	296	Fenn Tech	371	– 1	3.4	21.2
1660	1310	GKN	1553	– 3	3.8	14.7
4365½	2337½	General Mtr	2762½	+ 87½	1.9	*
1239	918½	Honda Motor	1127½	– 9½	0.4	*
452½	331	Lucas Ind	342	– 3	4.0	16.5
1½	½	Lucas	1½			
238	156	Lucas†	165		7.3	14.6
64	50	Marlborow	56		3.2	22.4
174	61	Mitsubishi	68	+ 1		8.9
174	61	Sytner†	166	– 1½	4.8	17.5
261	157	T & N	168		8.5	13.9
333	263	Trinity Hldgst	333		2.4	24.1

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
607	498	AB Food	567	+ 8	3.6	11.6
368	346	Acatic & Hstn	365		4.3	9.9
74	49	Albert Fisher†	47		9.9	16.0
272	218	Banks (S C)	218		3.6	8.4
383	300	Barr (Alex)	375		2.8	24.2
72	39	Bassetts Crsp	39		6.9	*
481	378	Booker	382		7.0	14.4
56½	46½	Bornwicky	46½	– ½	3.5	32.1
217	156	CPL Avenuct	201	– 1	3.9	19.2
345	254	Cadbury Schwe	340	– 3	4.4	16.1
154	143	Carr's Milling†	154		3.1	9.2
147	130	Continental†	147		7.1	10.7
118	87	Dalgety	118		1.7	*
543	388	Dalgety	543	– 4	6.4	11.6
97	50	Daniels S	94		6.7	*
294	210	Davis	218		3.6	14.7
701	52	Evenly	64		4.9	24.0
8½	4½	Farmgford	4½			
85	61	Finlay (James)	68	+ 2	7.6	9.2
209½	13	Global	15		4.2	13.7
77	38	Grand Central	56	– 2		
194	104	Hazlewood Fdst	113	– 1	7.4	21.1
194	104	Hillsdown	178		6.2	12.7
28	15	Hobson	17½			
1460½	1031½	IAF 'B'	1067½	– 9½		
527½	411	Inchcape Inst	444		3.7	17.1
485	337	Jacks (Wm)	449	– 1	2.8	19.1
392	297	Sterling Inst	297		3.7	16.8
455	343	Tl	376	– 5	3.8	19.8
1914	1511	Tesco	1811	– 7	2.7	16.2
185	135	Tomkin Textil	168	– 1	7.1	16.2
163	135	Tuplin Lloyd†	135		6.7	*
18	12	Unit Inds	15		6.7	*
358	274	Vitec	328	+ 1	2.5	18.3
329	230	Vitaulic	258	+ 3	4.0	14.0
19	9½	Wilkins Grp	9½			
537	451	Winter	530	+ 1	1.9	12.9
885	661	Vicker Thornyt	722		3.3	15.6
492	451	Wagon Ind	463		5.1	22.7
354½	248½	Wkc	328		3.7	16.1
46½	37½	Wellstand	40½		3.1	6.1
368	365	Whitmgn	367	+ 4	3.2	14.9
244	90	Wincaste	125		2.3	

HEALTHCARE

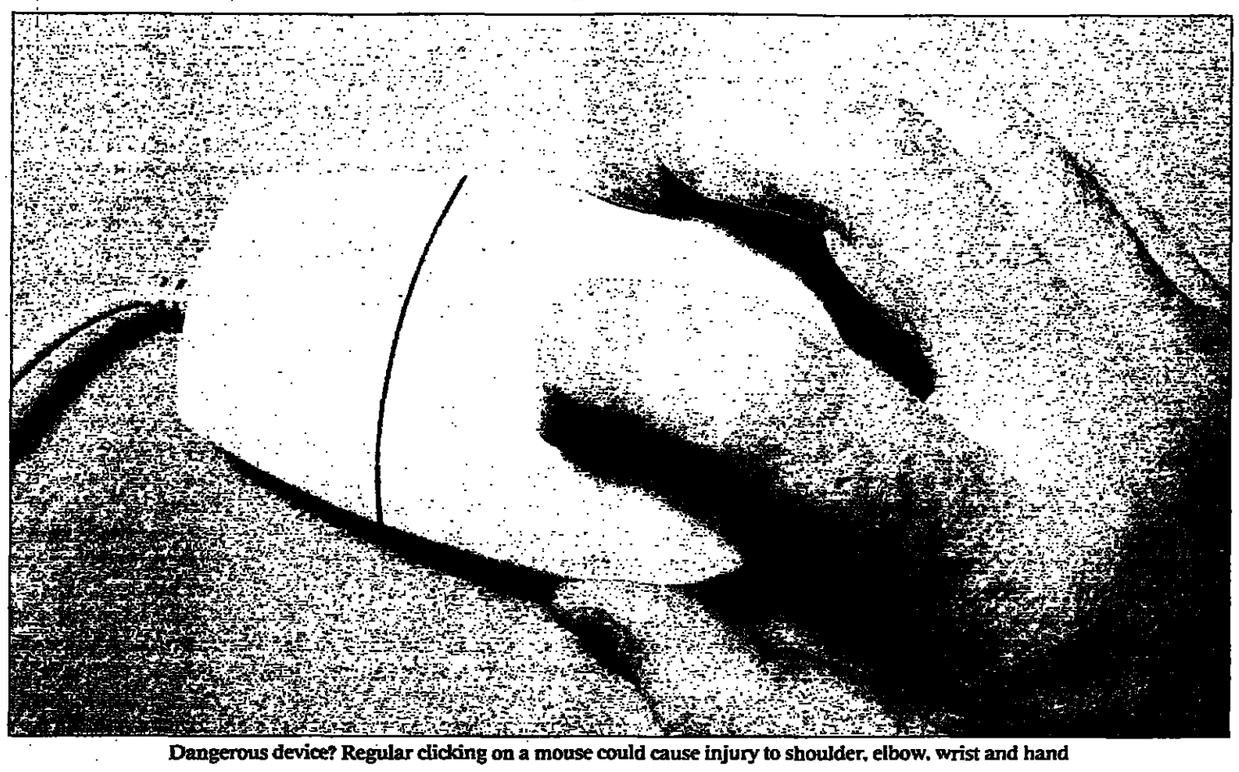
1994 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
544	325	AAH†	338	– 1	6.6	11.5
1141	843	Alexandrn	965	+ 1	2.4	17.7
61	43	Amerpn	51			
397	296	Assoc Nwspt	296		1.4	12.6
383	243	Bespak	381	+ 4	4.5	14.6
29½	17	Cam Sc	18			
115	80	Caltas	78			
151	88	Chrisscence	97			
42	38	Cortecs	38			
297

هكذا من الأصل

INFOTECH

Beware, danger mouse

The device used to move a computer cursor may be a health threat, says David Hewson



Dangerous device? Regular clicking on a mouse could cause injury to shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand

The days when repetitive motion injury among computer users was treated as something of a joke are long past, at least in the United States. There the Labour Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that computer-related injuries cost industry more than £60 billion a year in lost work time.

The OSHA believes that half of the people who suffer from the most common computer-related condition, carpal tunnel syndrome, lose more than 30 days' work each year, longer than people normally take off for a minor amputation.

So far the villain of the piece has always been the keyboard. There are growing signs, however, that the ubiquitous desktop mouse — the device used to move a cursor round the screen — may bear as much of the blame.

At the ergonomics laboratory of Berkeley University in San Francisco, one of the few research projects into the physical effects of mouse use has been videotaping computer users and measuring the forces involved in pushing and clicking a small piece of plastic around a desktop all day.

They discovered that the average computer user may click the mouse between 10,000 and 80,000 times a week, resulting in discomfort and injuries to the shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, thumb and fingers.

The team found that the group most at risk was people working in graphical computing. Mouse use occupied one to two thirds of their time and, crucially, much of that involved "dragging" — moving the mouse with one finger holding down a button.

This exerts much greater pressure on your hand than simply moving the mouse across the pad. In a graphics program, you might expect to click the button 976 times an hour, compared with 544 times in a database or spreadsheet and only 249 times in word processing.

Pete Johnson, one of the study team, says that one of the oddities of mouse injuries is that the forces involved are very light — between 2 and 10 per cent of the force people are capable of exerting with an index or middle finger.

"Since two to three fingers hold the mouse it would be even less if you expressed it as a percentage of hand strength. That's the challenge with the research, people exert such light forces, yet some people appear to be developing problems. We don't fully understand why."

One of the technology leaders in the field of pointing devices, the Californian company Kensington, has just launched its latest model, the "thinking mouse", which concentrates as much on software and user attitudes towards working with the computer as it does on providing something comfortable for the hand.

The manual explains the state of current research on computer-related injuries and ways of both avoiding and detecting them through posture and regular breaks from the PC. Along with the mouse comes software designed to reduce the physical forces imposed upon the hand.

Kensington do away with the need for "dragging" by letting you set up a lock button — once you use it you can then drag the item you want around the screen without further pressure. The software will also guess whereabouts on the screen you want to move and go there automatically or with a small nudge, adjust its speed to your work, and can remind you of when to take rest periods after a prolonged time at the PC.

Like the Berkeley team, Kensington's product line manager Cris Fraenkel believes that some heavy users may be better served by a trackball — an upside down mouse where the ball moves but the unit remains stationary.

Another alternative pointing device gaining favour is a trackpad — a touch-sensitive panel first fitted in Apple portable computers and now being copied elsewhere. You direct the cursor by pointing on the pad and moving it where you want. Like trackballs, trackpads are becoming popular in portable computing, but are still rare in the office.

A number of companies have experimented with gimmick mice but with little commercial success. Logitech recently announced a £25 My Mouse, in the shape of a real mouse, but emphasised that this was made for the home, not the office.

Mr Johnson advises anyone worried about an injury from using a mouse to adopt a pointing device which has a drag-lock feature, an inexpensive little software add-on.

One indication that an injury is mouse-related is if it only affects one side of the body — keyboard symptoms generally occur in both arms. If you have pain in a single hand, he suggests you look at the tasks it is doing which the well hand is not.

The health issues involved in using a mouse are not going to go away. The technology industry is looking for new pointing devices for general use in the home to run interactive TV sets, and eyeing gamepad controllers, such as those used in Nintendo consoles, for inspiration.

Mr Fraenkel, for one, is horrified. "The state of art in game controls is simply atrocious. They are just little button devices that tend to encourage a lot of force and, as every game player knows, after a while your hand gets very, very tired."

And the US Government, looking at the bill for all those lost hours, is becoming interested, too. It has a strict set of rules governing PC use in the workplace under internal consideration, a move that so worries the manufacturers that they are setting up a fund to press the business interests' point of view.



The solution? The Kensington trackball

ONLINE

Saved by a whisker

NEW York State prison officials have agreed to accept the computer image of a clean-shaven Hasidic rabbi instead of forcing the imprisoned Orthodox Jew to shave his beard and sideburns.

The rabbi said that shaving to satisfy prison requirements for pictures of inmates was against his religious beliefs. After reviewing computer images in court, officials said the images would accurately depict him as he would appear without his beard.

Logging in

LEARNED Information, part of the VNU media group, has started an Internet division, Matrix Publishing, offering publishers a way to put their information on the network. "It takes time and resources to come to grips not just with the technology but also with the business opportunities," Charles Ashley, director of Matrix, says.

Upgraded PC

ADAMSON Computers, based in Welwyn Garden City, is selling a £234 upgrade kit which it says can transform an ordinary PC into a multimedia machine.

Speeded up

TOSHIBA is to start selling a credit card-sized modem capable of sending and receiving information at double the usual speed. The devices, known as PCMCIA, can slot into laptop computers. The V34 modem, which will cost £500, works at 28,800 bits per second.

Late developers

COMPUTER game companies have woken up to the fact that older people could be a fast-growing niche of computer game players. In a survey of PC owners in America, 37 per cent of those over 50 said they used their PCs to play games.

Cutting down

UNISYS, one of the largest manufacturers of mainframe computers, says it will cut 4,000 jobs worldwide this year and shift its focus to services and desktop computers. The jobs are all in Unisys' hardware business.

Private matter

CANADA's Health Ministry is investigating how computerised medical histories of thousands of Vancouver patients ended up on sale at a discount store. One buyer said he couldn't believe what he was reading after buying 20 computer discs for 20 cents each just before Christmas. The records detailed everything from hysterectomies and breast operations to herpes and one man's problem with his libido.



On the up

IBM says that sales of its OS/2 operating system more than doubled in Europe last year. About 3 million copies of IBM's alternative to Windows have now been sold in Europe. IBM adds that the latest version of OS/2, called Warp, has sold 800,000 copies since its launch in October. It includes software to access the Internet and Compuserve.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matt__times@delphi.com

Apple grows a spring sapling

THE first offical clones of the Apple Macintosh personal computer could be ready to go on sale this spring. A little-known Californian company, Power Computing, has been licensed by Apple Computer to make and sell computers that use the Macintosh's highly regarded operating system.

Power Computing, which is backed by the Italian company Olivetti, says it plans to sell Macintosh clones by mail order from March or April. It will also supply them to other PC makers.

"This enables others to get into the Mac business with minimal research and development and up-front manufacturing costs," said Donald Strickland, an Apple vice-president.

Apple is also hoping that the deal will encourage larger companies to make Macintosh clones. If Apple-type computers gain a bigger market it should encourage more software developers to write software for the Macintosh and theoretically boost the appeal of the original as well.

The move is seen by some analysts as make or break for Apple if it is to succeed against the domination of the PC market by Microsoft and Intel.

Apple's computers are distinguished by being the only large brand incompatible with mainstream PCs that conform to the IBM PC standard which accounts for at least 80 per cent of personal computers worldwide.

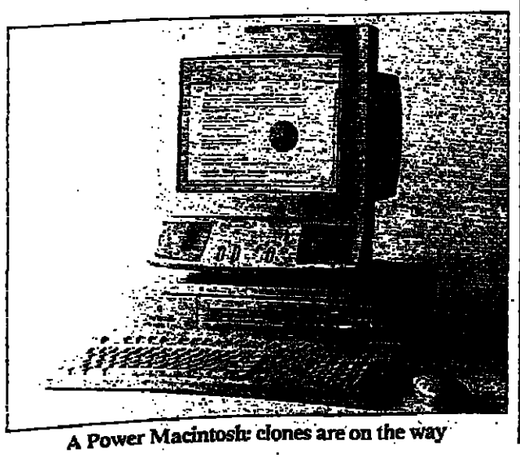
Despite this handicap, Apple has managed to keep about 10 per cent of the market for desktop computers. The Macintosh operating system is viewed as far easier to use than industry standard PCs and recently the company has been been succesful in holding onto its share of the market.

For more than a decade, Apple fiercely guarded its Macintosh technology, insisting that only Apple computers could use the Mac operating system. It was concerned that customers might prefer an Apple clone to an orginal.

But the outstanding success of the Microsoft Windows operating system, which has made industry-standard PCs easier to use, finally changed Apple's mind. Microsoft is promising that a new version of Windows, due to go on sale in August, will make non-Apple PCs as easy to use as the Macintosh.

The Macintosh clones will use the Power PC chip jointly developed by Apple, IBM and Motorola and which is already used in some Apple computers. In November, IBM quelled rumours that it would become a Mac licensee, saying it had no such plans.

MATTHEW MAY



A Power Macintosh: clones are on the way

The best banking brains of the EU are designing the money of the future, **Paul Penrose** reports





Could Beethoven be the choice for a European banknote or would plastic cards by a better way to a single EU currency?

Will plastic smart cards be Europe's common currency?

Which composer would you put on the flip side of a single European banknote? Benjamin Britten or Beethoven? Boulez or Verdi? It may seem a frivolous thought, but it is taxing the diplomatic sensibilities of the Frankfurt-based working group charged with overseeing the design and printing of a unified currency.

Political niceties aside, there are also the logistical complications of introducing a European currency. An overnight Big Bang would entail the simultaneous replacement of a huge volume of notes and coins and the many machines which handle them.

It took Barclays Bank alone two years to arrange the secure storage and distribution of 3,500 tonnes of new coins during decimalisation, when only three coins were withdrawn and new versions introduced in Britain.

On the other hand, a phased switch to a new currency would result in excessive business costs as banks and retailers would need to duplicate all their existing systems during the transition.

One novel solution is to phase out physical cash altogether. Under this scenario, electronic money loaded onto a microchip embedded in a plastic card would become the symbolic common currency of a united Europe.

In the federal superstate of the next millennium, there may be no rustle of Euro-notes, no jingle of Euro-coins, just the battery-operated blip of machine-readable data changing hands.

Cees Maas, an executive director of the Dutch ING Group, is chairman of an expert advisory group set up by the European Commission to examine the feasibility of a single currency.

He confirms that there are no practical constraints to monetary union in the long term, but urges the European Union to encourage the development of smart cards and other electronic payment schemes in the interim. By removing as much cash as possible from the system in advance, the group argues, the EU could ease the burden of any changeover considerably.

Malcolm Levitt, the European adviser to Barclays Bank, recently chaired a meeting of the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe, at which the idea of electronic cash was raised.

"Some commission officials who attended thought this would be the panacea for handling notes and coins," Mr Levitt says. "Instead of having to mint huge mounts of new notes and coins, smart cards would do the trick instead."

But the bankers around the table were less impressed, he says, pointing out that electronic money has yet to be tested on consumers, and that cash is still favoured over plastic in some European countries — notably Germany. Compatibility of competing systems and excessive retail costs might also be a stumbling block to its acceptability.

"On the other hand, a smart card able to handle more than one currency, say the national currency and the eventual single currency, is undoubtedly an attractive option," Mr Levitt says.

Commission officials have been watching the development of electronic payment instruments with interest. The EU has one such scheme on its own doorstep. The Banksys organisation, responsible for running cash machines in Belgium, is piloting a system in which chip cards can be loaded with cash at service tills and used to pay for small purchases in shops and on public transport.

If the "electronic purse" trials are a success, Banksys plans to roll the system out nationwide this year. Similar schemes exist or are planned for Britain, Holland, Denmark and Portugal.

NatWest and Midland will this year run the first commercial trials of Mondex, an ambitious system to replace hard cash with electronic currency. Unlike most other initiatives, Mondex is designed as a complete replacement for cash, allowing the unaudited transfer of currency from card to card, and person to person. NatWest wants to sell the system, which operates in up to 24 currencies, to banks worldwide.

The EU also has its own research and development programme into portable payment devices — Cafe. Supported under the Esprit banner, a consortium of partners is working to build and test an electronic wallet, much like Mondex, for widespread public use. The Cafe project is still in its infancy, but it has won influential support from some of Europe's largest banks, particularly in Germany.

Elsewhere in Germany, staff at the Frankfurt headquarters of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), a putative European central bank, are also monitoring the progress of electronic money. The EMI's job is to make monetary unification possible and co-ordinate the technical planning for the introduction of European banknotes and coins. The enthusiasm of commission officials for electronic cash is in marked contrast to the cautious stance taken at the EMI. The institute fears for the control of the money supply in an electronic currency system, and the possibility of widespread counterfeiting and fraud.

Indeed, one of the first policy documents issued by the EMI was devoted to the emergence of electronic purses. The report advised national governments to prevent non-banks from issuing electronic cash cards, but stopped short of an outright call for legislation to control their development.

There are also the untold political consequences of multi-currency purse schemes operating across borders. Will German tourists, for example, be able to use cards loaded with ecus in countries outside the single currency? Or, in the absence of a single currency, cards loaded with deutschmarks in stores throughout the EU?

This raises the spectre of currency competition, where weaker currencies are progressively squeezed out of a free market electronic system by their stronger, more stable, rivals. Now there's a prospect to raise the hackles of any Euro-sceptic.

Salaries and employment levels are both rising. **David Guest** on the skills that are in demand

The good times are back

JOEL CHANT/NEWS TEAM



Tony Coombes, of Software Personnel, says: "We are all finding it a fairly buoyant market"

Last year saw a general resurgence in the information technology job market. Will it continue, and if so, where will the plum jobs be found? Two surveys conducted towards the end of last year indicate that employment levels and salaries are both rising.

The National Computing Centre's 1995 Salaries and Staff Issues in Computing report, for example, predicts employment growth for all systems staff of 13 per cent over the next two years. This is a notable rise on the previous year's prediction of a 7 per cent increase.

Computer Economics' Computer Staff Salary Survey approached the same subject from the opposite direction. In the year to November 1994, it found the first annual decline in redundancy rates in IT since 1987. Resignations, by contrast, were running at 8.8 per cent, up from 6 per cent in 1993.

Both surveys recorded rising salaries. Computer Economics reported a 5.7 per cent growth to November 1994, up on last year's 4.1 per cent, against the NCC's more conservative 2.6 per cent.

Doug Woodward, UK director of operations of the recruitment group Computer People, estimates that the market for contract specialists grew by 20 per cent in 1994; in permanent recruitment, he notes that the group was placing five times as many advertisements in December as it had been in June.

Other indicators are more ambiguous. The trend among computer users to place their systems in the hands of third parties continues. The job fair, Visit, returned in the autumn after a four-year gap although some people thought it disappointing.

At the beginning of last year, the IT skills which reliably commanded the highest returns were in networking, relational database management systems and open systems. As the year progressed, experience of traditional mainframe computers made a comeback and the so-called legacy systems skills saw strong demand.

Rick Firth, NCC's director of education and training, says this can be expected to tail off. "The real growth in demand is not in that area," he says. "Companies are finding people fairly readily with the traditional skills. If you look at our top 100 premium skills areas, it is still in C++, Visual Basic, Novell and Informix that the real shortages lie."

Mike Dearing, a partner at specialist technology futures recruitment consultancy Durnan Linstead, adds a fourth area of rising demand — object-orientated design and programming skills. "There is a particularly noticeable trend in the financial community to move towards object orientation," he says. "Getting good quality C++ people is extremely difficult." This is the advanced corps of software development. For the footsloggers in the majority of IT departments, Mr Firth holds out the hope of more extensive retraining in 1995.

"Education and training are taking a very much higher priority," he says. "It has been noticeable for about the past six months — companies are feeling better about business, they are taking new staff on, and when they can't find the skills on the job market they are retraining their existing staff."

But Mr Firth is cautious about the prospects for graduates hoping to enter IT in 1995. "It used to be a predictable route, with people starting at the bottom and working their way up. Now different combinations of skills are sought, so there will not be quite so wide a pool of entrants but the new people coming in are more likely to have the skills required."

Two factors have influenced IT employment — the release of funds for long-delayed projects and the emergence of new approaches to the development and operation of computer systems.

Both have stimulated particular demand for freelance contractors. There is general agreement in the computer industry that permanent employment in IT is unlikely to return to the levels of the late Eighties. Mr Woodward adds that contracts for freelances are getting longer but "the lid is still on the money".

Tony Coombes, sales and marketing director of recruitment agency Software Personnel, says the number of freelances might be as high as 25,000 but he expects it to grow — subject to an adjustment of standard terms of employment — to 35,000 within five years.

"We are all finding it a fairly buoyant market. I am rather optimisitic for 1995," he says. "Flexible labour is here to stay. Labour costs are a major issue. Fixed-term contracts for permanent staff are coming in."

As confidence returns, some of the efficiencies companies achieved during the recession are bound to be carried forward. In some cases, they will resort to outsourcing. Despite suspicions that the service has been oversold it has grown in popularity, with obvious implications for employment levels. A service company looking after the systems of half a dozen companies is not likely to employ the numbers of IT specialists that half a dozen IT departments would house.

Other technologies making a comeback include the software development environment Smalltalk, stimulated by the success of products such as IBM's Warp operating system. Mr Dearing notes that Smalltalk expertise is highly prized, especially in America.

The prospects for British IT specialists to work overseas appear likely to improve. America is the largest single market for their skills, Mr Woodward says, but Germany is also a strong potential destination. One of the most alluring countries, Australia, is still a relatively depressed job market.

How to be cured by the video camera

Iola Smith reports on a revolution coming to the doctor's surgery

Revolutionising outpatient care in rural areas is the aim of a new video diagnostic system developed by IBM and BT's Martlesham research laboratory.

It will be piloted this month by dermatology patients in mid-Wales. Eight GP surgeries in north Powys are being linked by personal computers, video conferencing facilities and direct telephone line to the office of consultant dermatologist Dr Keith Freeman, who is based 50 miles away at Bronglais Hospital, Aberstwyth.

Patients from north Powys with skin complaints will then be saved long journeys to the hospital clinic, because Dr Freeman will be able to diagnose and treat their condition via the video link in their GP's surgery.

"As a patient sits in his local surgery, the section of skin will be photographed by the video camera, and the image will be sent down a telephone line to my high-definition video screen," Dr Freeman said.

"I will be able to see what the problem is, and suggest the appropriate form of treatment. Throughout the consultation, the patient, his GP and I will be able to see each other and discuss the case together."

As the Powys project is being validated by the Institute for Health Informatics at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, the first 50 patients diagnosed via video will also be seen face to face by Dr Freeman. That will ensure that the patients are happy with the system.

He is convinced that once GPs and patients are familiar with the technology, it will be extended to other surgeries in the region.

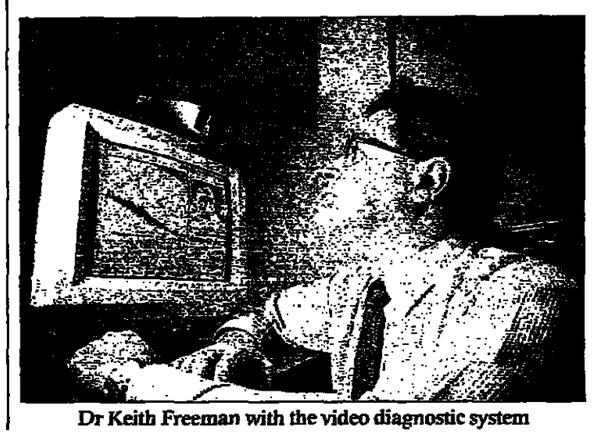
"It won't only benefit patients," he explained. "I currently spend 12 hours a week on the road, visiting patients at home and travelling between three different hospitals. By using the video, I'll be able to spend much more time with patients."

The system is relatively cheap to install and run. For a GP who already has a computer, the video link costs £3,250. The only other equipment needed is a video camera. The pilot is being financed by the Welsh Office, and it is expected to be the model to similar schemes that could be established in other rural areas of Britain.

There are also plans to link the eight surgeries with a school of nursing in Swansea and the College of Medicine in Cardiff so that community nurses and GPs can receive training in new medical developments.

Another likely function will be linking branch surgeries which are run by community nurses with a central GP surgery. Patients in remote villages will then be able to consult their GP via the link.

And there is considerable potential for using the video camera during home visits, at which, for example, regular monitoring of long-term problems such as leg ulcers could be done by a community nurse videoing the damaged tissue in the patient's home.



Dr Keith Freeman with the video diagnostic system

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DANCE page 32
Massine's masterwork is revived as old and new are celebrated in style on the Côte d'Azur

ARTS

POP page 33
After a three-year hiatus, Tanita Tikaram is back with what sounds like her strongest album yet



No time for angry words?

Andy Lavender asks why so few of today's writers use their work to protest at social evils or injustice



John Osborne was in rumbustious form in his *last* piece of journalism, tilting his pen against answerphones, homosexual "stridency" and political correctness in a recent diary column in *The Spectator*. A slightly more mellow expression attends these prejudices than is the case in early Osborne, but the fact remains that the writer always sounded off — gloriously in 1956 and all that — about the society in which he lived. He never failed to raise the "Condition-of-England question", to use Carlyle's handy phrase.

With more than three million people in Britain unemployed and more than two million homeless, the Condition-of-England question might appear as pressing now as in 1839, when Carlyle first posed it and his friend Dickens explored it, with due measures of scorn and compassion. But which writers are asking it today?

Ah, you reply, look at David Hare's recent trilogy of plays on British institutions; or Alan Bleasdale's *Boys From The Blackstuff* and *GBH*; or the films of Ken Loach, including his latest *Ladybird Ladybird*. Granted, these works make powerful comments about their society, but they are exceptions. Consider, too, that Osborne was 26 when he wrote *Look Back in Anger*, Dickens only 25 when he wrote *Oliver Twist*. Where is 1995's cohort of young social commentators?

According to the writer and critic Malcolm Bradbury, any lack of interest in dealing with social comment can be put down to changes in aesthetic fashion. Realism, he explains, is the form of writing which makes social issues most visible: you show what you see.

"By the 1960s," he continues, "there was a revival of a more fantastic, unrealistic way of writing, which is still the case today. There's a great deal of fiction which does deal with social issues, but there is often fantasy mixed in. Realism is almost too innocent for the smart writer nowadays."

Only the dull writer, then, presents epic visions of society. More streetwise colleagues turn instead to a more personal and even imaginative expression. This means a softer tone, even in the work of novelists and playwrights dealing with social issues. "I think there's a return to Romanticism," suggests Giles Croft, literary manager of the National Theatre. "I don't mean Byron, but a sentimental infusion that a lot of writers currently bring to their work."

Croft points to Kevin Elyot's *My Night With Reg* and Jonathan Harvey's *Beautiful Thing* as examples of plays by young writers which balance their social awareness with an upbeat sweetness. *My Night With Reg* started out at the Royal Court which, under Stephen Daldry, looks set to become once again a focus for energetic young writing that it was during the latter part of the 1950s.

The theatre industry is already talking about a season of sharp and unusual new plays in the Royal Court's Theatre Upstairs. The theatre's new literary manager, Graham Whybrow, voices the common theme: that issues-based drama is often the most dull and predictable. "You can see patterns in the scripts we receive," he admits. "Preoccupations with child abuse or with Eastern Europe, for instance, in response to what is deemed to be topical. But we're looking for writing which is one step ahead."

At which point writers might be inclined to take a further step, towards the larger audiences and pay packets offered by cinema and television. As the British film industry is bolstered by Channel 4 and the BBC, this step covers a lot of ground.

David Aukin, *Film on Four*'s commissioning editor, has high hopes of *Shallow Grave*, released in the cinemas today: a British film, he says, which "will give a specific image of life in Britain during the 1990s. It's about young people, greed and avarice."

Watch out, then, for John Hodge, who has written the screenplay. Watch too, Aukin recommends, for writers like Ronan Bennett and Mark Herman, who also have a shrewd eye for contemporary social themes. George Faber, the BBC's head of drama, nominates Jimmy McGovern, the much-feted writer of the ITV series *Cracker* and of a forthcoming BBC film, as one of the most forthright of the younger generation.

For all that, in an era whose prevailing modes range from showy bombast to detached irony, it is becoming less possible to wear your social conscience on your sleeve. Things have changed since the days of *Cathy Come Home*; "we have *so* much information now through the media," says Philip Hedley, artistic director of one of the nation's politically-orientated theatres, the Theatre Royal Stratford East. "There is less of a clear job for new writing to do in the public forum, in terms of revealing an underside to society."

This mild confusion is accompanied by a deeply-rooted pessimism. "There may have been more of a sense 20 or 30 years ago about the possibility of change," says George Faber. "People are a good deal more cynical now. I certainly don't get writers coming into my office angry."

If there is a general lament among commissioning editors and their breed, it is of this lack of passion. "John Osborne's plays are not particularly radical, but they did have a bitterness which is at times exhilarating," remarks Giles Croft. "The anger has largely gone now. We're still writing boulevard plays." The exception which he and others consistently note is a growing body of work by black and Asian writers.

By a grim paradox, the image which currently conveys both anger and biting irony has been produced by the SPL Advertising Agency and is to be found on the London Underground's advertising hoardings. Crisis, the charity for single homeless people, is running a series of posters of Victorian design depicting gruesome medical photographs: gangrenous toes, for instance, or the chest X-ray of a man with tuberculosis. They bear the name of the sufferer along with the information, "Homeless, 1994".

Which begs one final thought. In the increasingly likely event that some American geneticist were able to recreate Charles Dickens, what would the novelist discover 124 years after his death? Would he be rapturous at the eradication of the social evils of the Victorian age? Sadly not. In that case he would surely find himself knee-deep in plays and novels by his fellow writers, bursting with social conscience and stirring public indignation? Wrong again. On both counts we might expect him to be angry.

RECITAL

Scaling great heights

THE American countertenor Derek Lee Ragin has one of the most distinctive voices in the business. It rarely sounds like a produced countertenor at all: rather, it seems to function as an infinitely upward extension of a normal voice.

This might account for the fact that, his beloved Handel apart, Ragin's recital was strongest where it strayed farthest from conventional countertenor repertoire. He was either nervous or overwhimsical in the opening Purcell. *Julius Drake's manifold* skills as an accompanist were tested to the limit in matching the shifting colour and weight of the fickle currents of air which carried the words.

The ebb and flow of pulse and volume seems just too arbitrary, too volatile. And in the five Mendelssohn songs which followed, Ragin lived entirely on wings of song. One began to feel ever so slightly airsick, longing for the ballast of greater control from the diaphragm, longer and more deeply breathed phrases.

Then came Handel. Ragin has made something of a speciality of his operas, and from the opening notes of "Ombra mai fu" there was a new composure, a sharper focus and support. Stylishly turned phrases lived their full lease of life.

The best, though, came after the interval, when Ragin turned to the 72-year-old American composer Ned Rorem and his settings of extracts from Walt Whitman's diary of the Civil War. The three songs from *War Scenes* woke the voice to new eloquence.

For three of Samuel Barber's settings of James Joyce, timbre and movement were totally at ease with each other in Ragin's voice, self-consciousness vanished and, by the time the four spirituals were underway, the voice, thrillingly vigorous in its fast-beating top range, was singing *out as never before*.

Derek Lee Ragin
Wigmore Hall

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Useful lessons in fair play



DONALD COOPER

Jenni George and Doreen Ingleton in Winsome Pinnock's revision of her 1987 play

Leave Taking
Cottesloe

Winsome Pinnock's play should provide plenty of matter for classroom discussion when the National's education department sends it on tour later this month. Manchester and Cardiff can talk about the problems of British families of Caribbean origin. Enniskillen and Hereford can ponder the generation gap. Burton can debate the value of exams, Blandford muse on teenage pregnancy, and Huddersfield speculate about the causes of alcoholism. By the time Paulette Randall's five performers complete their round-trip to the South Bank, as they will in April, Harlow and Hexham, Chippenham and Coleraine may even have a vestigial understanding of obeah.

Are we talking, then, of a teaching pack that happens to travel on ten legs? The evening is not so glumly didactic. Pinnock's play has its lacunae, even after the revisions she has made to the text she wrote in 1987: excitement, unpredictability, the kind of quirkiness of observation to be found in the work of the Trinidadian Englishman, Mustapha Matura. But there is no doubting the quality of her ear, mind and heart.

Certainly, she brings authenticity, balance and concern to her treatment of the Matthews family, none of whom feels fully West Indian or British. Enid tries to be patriotic and grateful to the host country, but clings onto the old ways, the old values in a London that confuses and troubles her. She consults Mai, who practises obeah or witchdoctoring in a desultory way, and struggles to make sense of her daughters, who both suffer from what might be called the lessness diseases: fatherlessness, rootlessness, meaninglessness.

Balky Del (Karen Tomlin) stays out all night, dancing and, as it turns out, getting laid. Obedient Viv (Ginny Holder) quietly cracks, fluffing the A levels that should have taken her to university. Pinnock gives their points of view plenty of airtime; but the interesting thing, given that she is a first-generation Englishwoman not a lot older than them, is that her strongest sympathies are with their mother. It is Enid's bewilderment and, finally, her despair that gives the evening its emotional hold.

Partly that is because Jenni George plays her with unaffected honesty. But it is also because Pinnock feels, as well as sees, what it is like conscientiously to push your children into roles that they, with equal cause, reject as self-contradictory and oppressive. No wonder Enid ends up on Mai's floor, sobbing and accusing herself of inadequacies galore.

I would like to have seen more of Mai, who trudges about in her ratty slippers beneath a banner reading "when you think is peace and safety, is suddenly destruction", dispensing common sense and obeah salt. As played by Doreen Ingleton, she is Pinnock's most original creation. I could have done with less of Broderick, a family friend who is well enough performed by David Webber but is too obviously on stage to demonstrate the danger to a drinking man of nostalgia for the mother country. But whatever the cavils, the play exudes fairness and humanity: admirable qualities, I'd say, for an educational tour.

Humour with few hints of harmony

JAZZ: A second night of anniversary celebrations for a record label with an eclectic international roster of artists

HUMOUR, as any northern comedian attempting to make southerners laugh knows, is a delicate plant, notoriously difficult to uproot from its native soil. Musical humour, moreover, is the orchid of the family. Ironically, this truth was demonstrated at an event — the second Purcell Room concert celebrating Leo Records' 15th anniversary — intended to prove that geo-political boundaries have little relevance to artists.

The concert's bill, like that of the previous night, consisted of a representative sample of the company's extraordinary output: a Greek duo, a British quartet, a Japanese pianist playing French music with a US-based reed player of Ukrainian descent, and a Russian pianist.

Things went well enough until the interval. Sakis Papadimitriou is justly celebrated for elevating what can frequently be something of a gimmick — altering a piano's sound by placing various objects directly on its strings — into an art form. In a shortish set with long-time partner, percussionist and santoor player Lefteris Agouridakis, he produced a startling variety of sounds from his instrument, ranging from a sitar-like plucked shimmer, through light skittering, to downright lush, lyrical romanticism, interspersed with rhythmically vigorous passages.

The Jon Lloyd Quartet, too, proved that purely musical improvisation acknowledges few man-made boundaries. Taking their cue from the protean inventiveness of the leader on alto and soprano, they turned in a highly-charged but thoughtful performance, pianist John Law in particular demonstrating his unusual gift for combining the sensitivity to nuance so much in evidence on his recent recording of meditations on the Dies Irae with the more robust unpredictability demanded by free jazz.

Things began to get out of hand, however, with the arrival on stage of Keshavan Maslak and Katsuyuki Itakura. They were purportedly playing selections from their recent charming album of whimsical interpretations of Erik Satie's music, but these were unfortunately liberally punctuated by extra musical digressions — frenzied scratching of imaginary itches, demented mimes, hopping up and down on the spot — from Maslak.

Maslak also provided the concert's finale by joining fellow eccentric, pianist Sergey Kuryokhin, for a series of short duos. Since the Russian's act up until then had consisted of supposedly humorous but largely incomprehensible struggles involving a grapefruit and a large polythene bag, interspersed with undeniably virtuosic but frustratingly truncated passages of cod romanticism, jazz and lieder, his intrusiveness was hardly noticed.

CHRIS PARKER

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LONDON

WEEKEND BARBICAN Tomorrow evening Bramwell Tovey conducts the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** in a programme which includes Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture*, Handel's *Water Music Suite* and Beethoven's Symphony No 6 in F "Pastoral" With violinist Daniel Hope **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) Sat, 8.00pm.

On Sunday afternoon a **Fantasia of Film Music** is on show, with selected film tunes including *Star Wars*, *Dambusters* and *Indiana Jones*, as well as Khachaturian's adagio from *Spartacus* and Walton's *Battle of Britain Suite*

In the evening the **Philharmonia Orchestra**, conducted by Paul Freeman, performs Mozart's Piano Concerto No 26 in D "Coronation" and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 4 in F minor

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) Sunday, 4.00pm and 7.30pm

SOUTH BANK WEEKEND. Tonight the **Creative Jazz Orchestra** celebrates the lyrical music of the trumpeter/composer Kenny Wheeler. Among the guest soloists is acclaimed saxophonist Evan Parker

Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm

In addition, tomorrow evening, as part of the Early Music Series, the **New London Consort** performs a varied selection of medieval songs and tunes **Purcell Room**, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800) Sat, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM. The City of Birmingham SO offers **A Night in Paris and Vienna.** The Paris section includes Berlioz's Hungarian March 'Faust' and Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals* 'Vienna' features works by Strauss and Lehar Lawrence Foster conducts with piano soloists Peter Donahoe and Elaine Burns

Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333) Sat, 7.00pm; shorter version at 3.00pm.

GLASGOW. *Iolanthe*, Gilbert and Sullivan's satirical send-up of the British legal and parliamentary systems, makes a return to the **Scottish Opera** repertoire One of Scotland's foremost opera stars, Bill McCue, takes on the role of the Lord Chancellor.

Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000) Sat, 7.15pm and several dates until Feb 9

COVENTRY Kent Nagano conducts the **Hallé Orchestra** for two classic Russian pieces, Prokofiev's Suite No 1 from *Cinderella* and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No 6 *Pathétique*

Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry (0203 524824). Tonight, 7.30pm

CARDIFF Tonight the **City of London Sinfonia** with the *Tallis Chamber choir* present a programme including Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, Mozart's Mass in C minor and Charpentier's *Te Deum*.

St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff (0222 371236). Tonight, 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Mexican Gallery: Pre-Raphaelite Drawings; Japanese Imperial Craftsmen; (071-636 1555) **Hayward**: The Romantic Spirit in German Art 1790-1990 (071-928 3144) **National Portrait Gallery**: The Sitwells, Christina Rossetti (071-306 0055) . **National Gallery**: The Young Michelangelo (071-839 3321) . **Royal Academy**: The Painted Page (071-439 7438) . **Serpentine**: Rebecca Horn (071-402 6075) . . . **Tate**: Clore Gallery: Rebecca Horn (071-887 8000) . . **V & A**: Kalighat: Indian Popular Painting 1800-1930; the Ironwork and Glass Galleries (071-938 8500) **Whitechapel**: Worlds in a Box (071-522 7888)

Tickets available at time of going to press; please check box office.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Paul Haynes

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **ATSWIM-TWO-BIRDS** Ridiculeumus stage the unstageable Flann O'Brien's boisterous novel dealing in part, with a Dublin student's attempt to combine study with drinking, but also parodying a wealth of Irish literary conventions

BAC Studio Two, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223) Tue to Sat 8.30pm, Sun 6.30pm Till Jan 22

■ **THE BOAT PLAYS** Sumptuously staged moralities by Gil Vicente, 16th-century Portuguese playwright, the newly dead board vessels bound for Hell, Purgatory or for a final Heaven

Gate, Prince Albert Pub, Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm

■ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** John Mortimer's adaptation, Ian Judge's direction and Clive Francis's Scrooge make this a cosy evening, well removed from the moral fervour of Dickens

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) Tonight, 7.15pm

☐ **HAMLET** Peter Hall directs Stephen Dillane's darkly humorous, self-detesting Prince, backed by excellent playing from Michael Pennington, Donald Sinden and Alan Dobie

Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065) Mon-Sat 7.15pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm

☐ **MY NIGHT WITH REG** John Sessions and David Bamber in Kevin Elyot's excellent, award-winning comedy with a dark edge Six gay men caught up in a web of deception

Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Mon-Tue, Thurs-Sat, 8pm, Wed, 6.30pm and 9.15pm mat Sat, 4pm

◪ **THE RIVALS** Richard Cottrell's likeable production from Chichester, with Patricia Routledge's splendidly wild Mrs Malaprop like a lace-encrusted windmill *Limited season*

Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat 3pm Until Jan 14.

☐ **A TALE OF TWO CITIES** Alexis Denisof plays Darnay and Timothy Walker is Sydney Carton in Matthew Francis's version of the Dickens epic Self-sacrifice, the guillotine and lots of knitting

Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Jan 2, 3 30pm and all Sats, 2.30pm Until Feb 4

■ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA:** Tom Hollander sings Macheath in Kurt Weill's opera. Words by the team of writers customarily known as "Bertolt Brecht" *Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive* revival Also with new song lyrics from Jeremy Sams

Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **TO THE LIGHTHOUSE.** After its successful national tour, Empty Space begins an 8-week London season of Virginia Woolf's novel, adapted by Julia Lumer. After 4 weeks at Hammersmith the production moves to the Warehouse, Croydon

Lyric Studio, King St, W6 (081-741 2311) Preview Jan 4, 8pm Opens Jan 5, 8pm Mon to Sat 8pm. Mats Thurs (Jan 19) and Wed (Jan 25) 1.30pm, Sats 4pm Till Jan 28

■ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Patrick Barlow plays the unsqueashable Toad in this year's wonderful revival

National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm mats Wed, Sat, 2pm Until Jan 14

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Arcadia** Haymarket (071-930 8800) ☐ **Beautiful Thing:** Duke of York's (071-836 5122) ☐ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) . ☐ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . ■ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) . . ☐ **Copacabana**, Prince of Wales (071-839 5972) . . ☐ **Crazy for You** Prince Edward (071-734 8951) ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner** Duchess (071-494 5070) ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe** Lyric (071-494 5045) . . ◪ **Grease**, Dominion (071-416 6060) ☐ **An Inspector Calls:** Aldwych (071-836 6404) . ■ **Les Misérables** Palace (071-434 0909) . ◪ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal (071-434 5400) ☐ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) . . ☐ **Neville's Island:** Apollo (071-494 5070) ☐ **On Approval:** Playhouse (071-839 4401) . . . ☐ **Once on This Island**, Island (Royalty), (071-494 5090) . . ☐ **Only the Lonely:** Piccadilly (071-369 1734) . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . ☐ **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie** Strand (071-930 8800) . . . ☐ **The Queen and I**, Vaudeville (071-836 9987) . . . ☐ **She Loves Me** Savoy (071-836 8888) . . ☐ **The Sisters Rosensweig:** Old Vic (071-928 7616) . . . ◪ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard** Adelphi (071-344 0055) . . . ☐ **Woman in Black**, Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Correct at time of going to press; please check box office.**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **TIMECOP** (18) This film tells the tedious and violent tale of Jean-Claude Van Damme's time-travelling cop. With Mia Sara, Ron Silver, Director, Peter Hyams

Empire ◪ (0800 888911) ◪ **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3303)

◆ **WES CRAVEN'S NEW NIGHTMARE** (15)' Inventive riff on the "Elm Street" movies from the original's creator, director Wes Craven With Robert Englund, Heather Langenkamp

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **D2: THE MIGHTY DUCKS** (U) Stale adventures of America's ice hockey team in the Junior Goodwill *Games With Emilio Estevez. Director*, Sam Weisman.

Odeons: Kensington (0426-914 666) **Mezzanine** (0426-915 683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426-914 096) **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332) **Warner West End** (071-437 4343)

◆ **JUNIOR** (PG) Juvenile jokes abound as Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pregnant in the name of science. *With* Emma Thompson and Danny DeVito Director, Ivan Reitman.

Empire ◪ (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** (U): *John Hughes's gooey but just about* digestible remake of the 1947 fantasy, with Richard Attenborough as a department store Santa.

Barbican ◪ (071-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Mezzanine** ◪ (0426 915683)

Swiss Cottage (0426 914096) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

◆ **THE SPECIALIST** (15) Sharon Stone hires explosives expert Sylvester Stallone to avenge her parents' murder. Empty concoction that wastes its stars. With James Woods, Eric Roberts, Rod Steiger. Director, Luis Llosa.

MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (071-727 6705) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332) **Warner West End** (071-437 4343)

THREE COLOURS: RED (15) Kieslowski's compelling film about criss-crossing lives, a majestic climax to his trilogy With Irene Jacob and Jean-Louis Trintignant.

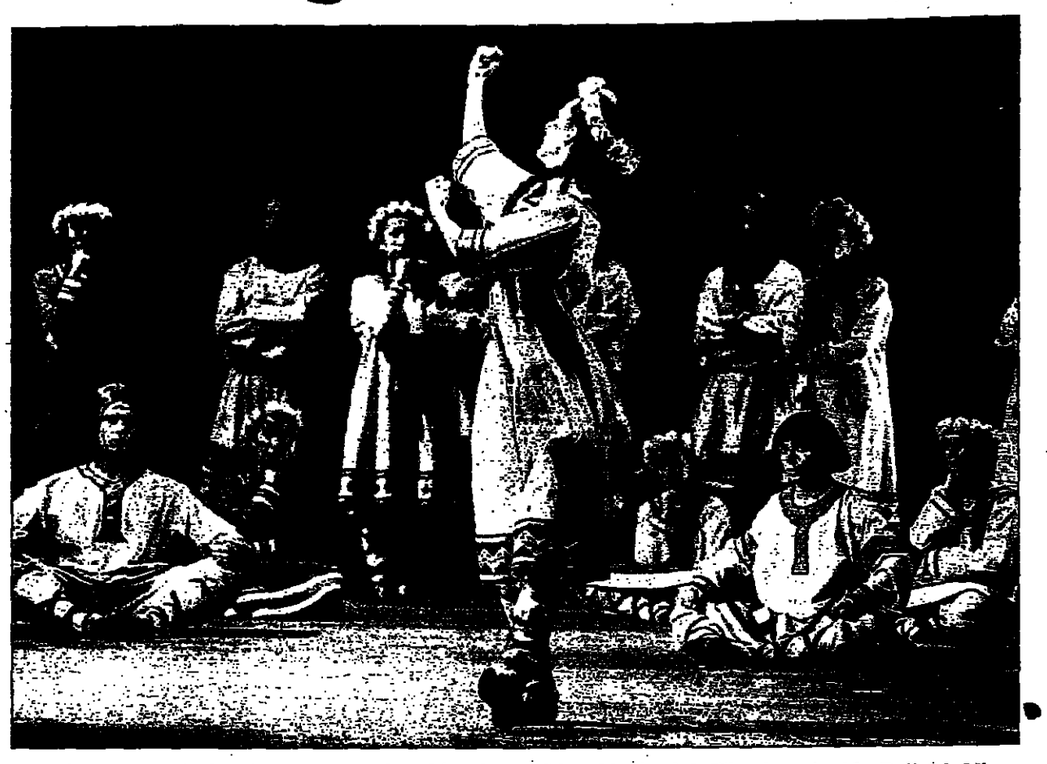
Chelsea (071-351 3742) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **MGM Fantasy Street** (071-930 0631) **Moorea** (071-235 4225) **Phoenix** (081-883 2233) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

VANYA ON 42ND STREET (U) An absorbing film of Andre Gregory's treatment of *"Uncle Vanya"*, caught in rehearsal by Louis Malle's cameras at a decrepit New York theatre Wallace Shawn, Julianne Moore, Brooke Smith and George Gaynes head the fine cast

Barbican ◪ (071-638 8891) **Curzon Mayfair** (071-369 1720)

Celebrating old and new

DANCE: **John Percival** sees the history of the 20th century honoured on the Côte d'Azur



Leaving modern rivals in its shade: Massine's historic 1920 *Rite of Spring* is brilliantly revived by Ballet de Nice

Ever since their inaugural season nine years ago, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo has been hoping to visit Britain. This year the company really does seem likely to get here at last, for a week at Sadler's Wells in London in May. And the enforced delays were probably a benefit, because during the new year season in their home theatre the company looked stronger than at any time I have seen them.

Jean-Christophe Maillot, the present director, is himself a choreographer, but too canny to stuff the programmes full of his own works. Instead, he sustains a well-established policy of building the repertoire on three strong foundations, each of which provided one complete programme for the latest season.

I did not see the one celebrating Monte Carlo's special heritage, the Ballets Russes tradition of Diaghilev and his successors for whom the base there was a godsend. The other two programmes could hardly have been more different, yet these also could be said to pay homage to Diaghilev. One programme, of three commissioned creations (all by choreographers in their 30s), echoed his interest in new work. The other, of three modern classics by Balanchine, demonstrated the later achievement of the finest of the choreographers he discovered.

By coincidence, all the young choreographers chose chamber music. Bertrand d'At gave himself a head start by persuading François Le Roux to sing the Schumann *Dichterliebe*. Not only did this bring a superb performance of the music, but Le Roux took part in the stage action too, with the intensity and conviction familiar to British audiences from his Gawain at Covent Garden.

His role was defined as The Poet; the dancers, all male, were described as his Doubles. Emerging from darkness surrounding the stage, their dances reflected, physically, the shape of the music and, emotionally, the words of the songs, which d'At interprets as a metaphor for the artist's struggle for creative achievement. No fewer than seven of the dancers had demanding solos, often swift and intricate; among their groupings there trails a miserable, apparently humped creature who only at the end removes his dark mask and cloak to reveal himself as a winged angel.

Because d'At wanted only men in his ballet, Renato Zanella decided to simplify rehearsal schedules by using only women for his *Watching Waters*. He had a strong team and a fine score, three string *quartets* by Webern (*Op 28*, 9 and 5) played by soloists of the Monte Carlo Philharmonic. But the scant movement he gave his cast, concentrating on *hand gestures, developed no* kinetic interest to evoke the ideas combining water, place and the sounds of nature which he described in a high-flown programme note.

Maillot's contribution to the evening, *Dove La Luna*, was set to piano music by Scriabin. He showed shifting relationships among a cast of three women and four men. The feelings are as transient as the partnerships, but the prevailing mood is sombre yet the result is not gloomy, since the continuing confrontations of the dancers suggest a sense of sustained quest.



Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo in Balanchine's La Valse

An evening of Balanchine gave the dancers a different challenge: roles by the greatest classical choreographer of this century, but inevitable comparisons with great performances elsewhere. The Monte Carlo Ballet came out of the reckoning pretty well.

The neo-classicism of *The Four Temperaments* is a Balanchine style familiar in Britain; I wish we had more opportunity to see the romanticism of *La Valse* and the high spirits of *Who Cares?*. In the latter, Jean-Charles Gil found an insouciant flair for his solo after partnering in turn a trio of leading women. Paola Cantalupo was the doomed heroine of *La Valse*, who found Death cutting out her intended partner. But this work, and indeed the whole programme, showed a company in good form.

Just along the coast from Monte Carlo is another company that deserves to be known in Britain, the Ballet de Nice, whose "Homage to Massine" programme has unearthed one of that choreographer's almost forgotten works, *The Rite of Spring*, which he staged for the Diaghilev ballet in 1920 when Nijinsky's original 1913 version had been lost.

By Leonide Massine's death in 1979 it was difficult to understand how he had been considered, four decades earlier, to be the greatest living choreographer. Happily, this production continues the rehabilitation of his reputation already begun by revivals of his symphonic ballets, *Les Présages* and *Choréartium*, in Paris and Birmingham.

Massine obviously had faith in his version of the Stravinsky masterpiece: he revived it in America — with Martha Graham as the Chosen Maiden! — in 1930, and several times later, but it happened always outside the main ballet capitals, in Sweden and Italy. Luckily Susanna Della Pietra and Enrico Sportiello, who worked with him on postwar productions, have been able to remount Massine's 1948 Milan staging for the Nice Ballet.

Thanks to research by Millicent Hodson and Kenneth Archer, a fair impression of Nijinsky's *Rite* has been presented by the Joffrey Ballet and at the Paris Opera, enabling comparison between the two historic productions. What Massine did was to simplify the plot, eliminating an ancient crone and a group of tribal elders, and to introduce a subliminal theme of human sexuality — the key-note of all recent versions — in place of the more detached tribal rites Nijinsky showed.

The character of the sacrificial victim becomes completely different. Nijinsky's was chosen because she was weak and stumbled, Massine's effectively chooses herself, suddenly standing out from the crowd through her inner strength. Agnès Letestu, a guest from the Paris Opera, gave a powerfully vivid account of this physically and emotionally demanding role.

Diaghilev and Stravinsky both preferred Massine's choreography to Nijinsky's: it does not achieve such wayward and innovatory genius, but is more evenly sustained. Both versions are bold, clear and imaginative, leaving almost all their modern rivals in the shade.

Besides *Rite*, the programme contained two lighter works from the same period. *Parade*, which surfaced briefly in London Festival Ballet's repertoire during the 1970s, owes more to Satie's deliciously irreverent music, Cocteau's crazy libretto and Picasso's cubist designs than to Massine's choreography. The other light work, *Le Beau Danube*, used to be one of Festival Ballet's biggest hits years ago, and I cannot understand why it has been neglected so long. Massine's choice of music by Johann Strauss is pure delight, and the dances joyfully evoke a sunny afternoon in Vienna, 1860. Any company thinking of reviving it would do well to emulate the care Nice has taken to get the costumes right, and to follow them in having Tatiana Leskova reinstate the subtleties of the choreography. It helps, too, to have a company as spirited as Hélène Trailine has assembled.

NEW RELEASES

AMATEUR (15) Amnesiac pornographer laces his past with a former nun's help Quirky, touching, pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley, with Martin Donovan and Isabelle Huppert

Barbican (071-638 8891) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098) **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES (15) Unwieldy version of Tom Robbins's zany novel from cult director Gus Van Sant. Uma Thurman heads a cameo-strewn cast

Metro (071-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561) **Screen/Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Screen/Hill** ◪ (071-435 3366)

LOVE, CHEAT & STEAL (18) Failed film noir from new director William Curran, with Madchen Amick, John Lithgow and Eric Roberts

MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561)

SHALLOW GRAVE (18) Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money Danny Boyle directs Kerry Fox and Christopher Eccleston.

Gate Notting Hill (071-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** ◪ (071-370 2636) **Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **Warner West End** (071-437 4343)

STARGATE (PG) Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader Preposterous, derivative, but fun With Jaye Davidson

MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

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"PICK UP THE PHONE AND BOOK NOW!" Ind.

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THE MOUSETRAP

STRAND 071 930 8800/ CC 071 344 4444 (24hrs, 7 days, no fee)
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"Magnificent" S.Express
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VAUDEVILLE BO

صكذا من الأصل

POP ON FRIDAY: Tanita Tikaram's new twist to her sobriety ... Caitlin rattles the royal jewellery ... Elvis badly served

One smart girl grows up

At 25, Tanita Tikaram is very different to the sensitive but surly kid who hit it big at 18. She's in love, for a start — and she's learnt how to laugh, writes Alan Jackson



Fact: one Norwegian in three owns a Tanita Tikaram record. Fact: she gets mistaken for a 12-year-old boy. Fact: her upcoming album *Lovers in the City* is extremely fine

At the age of 18, Tanita Tikaram took the decision not to go to university. Instead, she sent a tape of the songs she had written in her bedroom to a booker at the north London music venue the Mean Fiddler.

Then, while the freshers she had shunned adapted to life in lodgings, wrestled with literature or love affairs, and bemoaned the paucity of their grants, she found herself experiencing a different kind of education. In textbook star-maker fashion, a record contract followed swiftly upon her debut live appearance at the club. In July 1988, a first single, "Good Tradition", made the Top Ten. Two months later, her album *Ancient Heart* entered the charts at No 3. Tikaram had managed to avoid academia, but had found herself a career.

> "I was very aware of all I was missing"

Such success creates its own momentum, and life quickly became a round of television appearances, concerts, hotel rooms and airport lounges. Instead of sitting in dusty seminar rooms, theorising earnestly on the texts of famous authors, she learnt that her own rather opaque and complex song lyrics had become the subject of study for young women in bedsits and common rooms. These fans aped her style — black woollen tights, dark and shapeless clothes, a faintly mysterious expression. In a TV comedy sketch, French and Saunders aped it too, suggesting she had achieved a certain sociological resonance. A camp dance version of one of her hits by Liza Minnelli and the Pet Shop Boys later confirmed this.

But although three further albums followed, Tikaram all but faded from the scene in this country. There were reports of astonishing sales achievements elsewhere — No 1 in Norway for 17 weeks, for example, with the result that one in three of the Norwegian population now owns one of her records — but British attention wavered.

But that could be about to change. After a three-year hiatus, she returns next month with *Lovers in the City*, her strongest album to date. "Go away for a while — get a life," critics were fond of telling the teenaged Tikaram, as each new record went into the shops. The confidence, clarity and maturity of her latest songs suggest she has done just that.

"Things from that early period are very vague to me," says the singer, now 25 and sleek and sophisticated in designer grey. "A rhythm had very quickly imposed itself on my life: you do an album, then you tour, then you do another album. I don't mean to belittle that, because I know it's what a lot of people feel they would die to do. But it didn't seem very interesting to me — I seemed constantly to be having to make small-talk with managers while everyone else my age was into weird things I knew nothing about.

"It made me very aware of all I was missing, and after *Eleven Kinds of Loneliness* [her 1992 album], I decided to call a halt for a while. Life has seemed much more real since then, and I feel lighter as a result."

As is the case with many young and novel semi-alternative artists who have found themselves adopted instantly by the public, sales returns diminished with each new release. You could say that Tikaram was insulated from this by the fact that she had already become rich. But she saw another reason for not panicking. "I'd seen how it was for a lot of other women — Rickie Lee Jones, Joan Armatrading and so on — and I just assumed there was a pattern; you have a very big first album, then it drops away. I felt OK with that, and not at all in a defensive way — I know that I have to do certain things commercially each time or I won't get to make another album. But I think we all come to realise what's actually important in our lives."

Time spent in Paris, Milan, San Francisco and, for the past year, Los Angeles, helped the process of self-knowledge. It also allowed her the opportunity to fall in love for the first time, discussion of which causes Tikaram to lose her poise temporarily and smother her embarrassed laughter with a cushion. "Discovering that you are actually lovable is obviously very important," she says eventually. "It's something that you don't know is possible before it happens, and you spend a lot of time worrying that there's something wrong with you until it does. Until you fall in love, you're never really sure if you feel things like other people do. You wonder if you even have the capacity. But now I'm very much in love, and it's such a comfortable feeling."

Tikaram will not identify her partner ("They'd kill me," she shrieks, collapsing sideways into the upholstery again), but she says they have been together for two years — "Which is pretty good, I think. Of course, I haven't been out on the road in that time, and I'm starting a world tour in March. So who knows? I might turn into a rock chick when I get out there." She laughs again, different as can be to the dour, edgy 18-year-old of her public image.

Serious concerns still preoccupy her, though. For example, when I remark that the climate for female performers has changed for the better in the time she has been away, with mainstream acceptance of iconoclasts such as kd lang and Björk, she takes immediate issue.

"I'd love to believe that were true", she says, "but when I watch a pop programme or a movie I sometimes think things are getting worse. Women are still portrayed in such a stupid way, and feminine beauty is still represented by a girl in a short skirt and with long hair looking like she wants it all the time.

"I want to see different images, because the screen conventions are so banal and real people are much more interesting. But it's so unfashionable to say that, because of the incredible backlash there has been against feminism. It's a dirty word now. To be politically correct is somehow worse than to be a murderer. It's a difficult time for women. I wouldn't like to be a young girl growing up today."

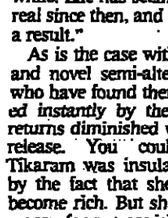
Her face clouds for a moment. Then she laughs loudly again, this time at herself: here she is, an angry old woman, still being mistaken for a pre-teen. "I get on a plane and they give me a play pack — seriously. It happened just the other day. The stewardess came along the aisle before take-off and handed me this freebie and when I opened it up there were crayons and pencils and a dot-to-dot book. Truly. Then later, when I asked her for one of the broadsheets, she said: 'Oh my God, I thought you were about 12.'

"Funnier still was what she didn't say. I could tell from the extent of her embarrassment that really she'd thought I was a 12-year-old boy."

● *Lovers in the City is released by East West on February 13. A single, "I Might Be Crying", is released next week*

Take That! Charles Pulps Diana

The Prince of Wales was well cool over Christmas, while the Princess was stuck with Howard's end



CAITLIN MORAN

Normally perspicacious Fleet Street hacks, presumably over-stuffed with seasonal goodwill, figgy pudding and lethally potent mulled wine, completely missed the escalation of the Royal Divorce over the Christmas holidays. No need for telephoto lenses the size of bunkbeds, or high-speed car-chases — it was all there, on prime-time television, for all to glory and marvel at. Yes, the Waleses have embarked on the First Royal Pop Wars: they're slugging it out on the battlefield of the charts, and the first one to No 1 gets Sandringham.

The Princess of Wales unleashed the first punch, by attending a concert by Take That (Christmas Day, Channel 4, 10.55am), wherein Howard, the That who resembles Dougall from *The Magic Roundabout*, asked the audience, in a Manchester accent so broad it extended to Yorkshire, if they wanted "To see ma boooom?" This was the same boooom, it transpired, that had been revealed to the world some months earlier in a pair of cut-away trousers, and caused several teenage girls to explode.

The Princess's reaction to Howard's question was not shown.

While the Prince of Wales was gathering strength for his pop onslaught later in the week, the nation turned to the *Top of The Pops Christmas Party*, hosted by Take That. This was an important turning point in the Take That camp: up until this point, it was generally agreed that when the whole Being In Take That scam fell flat, and they had to return to their day jobs, Robbie would be the host of a daytime quiz show, which was preferable to the mini-cab driving duties that awaited the others.

Robbie has that inane, LWT charm that is synonymous with being the cute, jokey Ringo of the group, and always seemed well up for spending the latter part of his twenties saying: "Is London or Paris the capital of France, Doreen?"

But on *TOTP* on Christmas Day, the horrible realisation that Robbie is no longer cute, just annoying, struck. He gurned his way through introducing Wet Wet Wet; he bounced around like a mangy puppy when Stiltskin came on: he belly-flopped into a great swimming pool of ego every time a Take That video was shown.

Gary Barlow, Take That's songwriter and a man who dances like a bored polar bear in a zoo, is now the Cool One. All hail Gary, then.

Boxing Day, and the *Prince's Trust Gala Concert* is the Prince's chance to retaliate: Phil Collins, Kylie Minogue, Belinda Carlisle, Cliff Richard and Squeeze doing an album track. Mmmm, just look at that line-up for a minute, and glory in the raw, naked rock'n'roll recklessness of it all. For reasons too tawdry to go into, Jonathan Ross is up the Telecom Tower, linking each band with a couple of celebrity mates. Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer pop up from nowhere, clearly in a festive mood.

"It's Pulp next," Jonathan says. "Vic, do you like Pulp?" "Yes," Vic slurs. "And I've liked them even more since I found out that an anagram of the lead singer, Jarvis Cocker's, name, is ..." you don't want to know (and it isn't, anyway).

"Yes, well, um ..." Jonathan hastily links to Pulp. They do "Babies", the one about Jarvis lying under his friend's elder sister's bed while she has it off with her boyfriend. It is, of course, the most rock'n'roll thing all Christmas, and strangely apt in the Royal Pop Wars if one knows anything about royal history. One-nil to the Prince, methinks.

New Year's Eve, and *Jools Holland's Second Hootenanny* is the reward I have for being Without Friends, and ushering in the new year in my little brother's bunk-bed with a bottle of Jack Daniels. Jools is, as always, the perfect music TV presenter, and so we will gloss over the rather scraggy line-up and note that Blur were fantastic, and Roland Rivron was in the audience looking as gorgeous as ever.

Christmas and new year pop fare ended on January 2, with Take That in concert again, this time in Berlin. Robbie sprayed the audience with machinegun fire, presumably in retaliation for a couple of wars, and Gary hopped around the peripheries of immaculately choreographed routines like the Andrex puppy with a bandaged paw.

And so 1995 began as 1994 ended — with me wondering quite *why* I'm becoming so obsessed with Take That, with Blur and Pulp being cool, and with the Prince of Wales smugly reflecting on a pop victory. I must try and get out more this year.

No dish to set before the King

NEW ALBUMS: Tony Bennett doing 'Love Me Tender'?

It's enough to make Elvis leave his heart in San Francisco



Could they have been in any way related? The young Elvis Presley wrinkles the lip that launched a billion screams; the old one broke almost as many hearts when he died

VARIOUS ARTISTS
It's Now Or Never — The Tribute To Elvis
(Mercury 524 072)
PERFORMED by a motley collection of country, rock and pop acts, most of them in concert at the Pyramid Arena in Memphis last October 8, *The Tribute To Elvis* is a collection of 15 songs made famous by Elvis Presley.

Although the concert was described as "a major historical event" by Presley's widow, Priscilla — president of Elvis Presley Enterprises — the first two tracks of the album — "Lawdy Miss Clawdy" by Travis Tritt and "(Let Me Be Your) Teddy Bear" by Tanya Tucker — were both recorded at another time in a proper studio, which rather undermines whatever sense of occasion might have marked the event.

The performers tend to be growlers and wobblers such as Melissa Etheridge ("Burning Love"), Billy Ray Cyrus ("One Night"), Aaron Neville ("Young And Beautiful") and Bryan Adams ("Hound Dog"), who sink their teeth into the songs and don't let go until they have chewed them half to death. Or else they are celebrity journeymen — people like the Mavericks ("Love Me"), Michael Hutchence ("Baby Let's Play House") and Wet Wet Wet ("It's Now Or Never") — who turn in respectful but insipid copies of the originals.

The best offering is Chris Isaak's "Blue Moon", the only performance that comes close to matching the warmth and sensuality of Presley's version, while a depressing nadir is reached with Tony Bennett's cabaret singalong of "Love Me Tender". Apart from Isaak, it doesn't sound as if any of these people were great admirers of Presley and, for all the care of Don Was's production, the album seems an essentially pointless exercise.

BROWNSTONE
From The Bottom Up
(MJJ Music/Epic 477362)
AN AMERICAN, three-woman singing group, Brownstone is the first act to release an album on Michael Jackson's new label, MJJ Music. Jackson, who comes just after God in the list of those thanked, also takes an executive producer credit on *From The Bottom Up*, their debut, but an army of producers — someone different for almost every track — is actually responsible for the album's lush, up-to-the-minute sound.

Although superlative singers, the women have landed themselves with a bunch of forgettable tunes larded with familiar sounding lyrics about making love "all day and night", having to be "strong to carry on" and even one called "Grapevyne" which starts "I heard it through the grapevine". As production-line soul for 1990s people it holds up well enough, but not enough chances have been taken to make it truly stand out from the crowd.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION
Jewel In The Crown
(Woodworm Records/Pinnacle WRCD023)
NOT so much a group, more a national treasure, Fairport Convention have gradually turned their periodic New Year tours and annual summer reunion festivals in Cropredy into a full-time job again.

Singer and guitarist Simon Nicol is now the only member left from the group that originally formed in 1967, but drummer Dave Mattacks and bass player Dave Pegg are old Fairport hands, and even the "newcomers", violinist Ric Sanders and multi-instrumentalist Maartin Allcock, have been on board for a decade or so.

Jewel In The Crown, their first studio album for four years, finds the band that practically invented English folk-rock back in the 1960s *re-treading familiar territory*. "Travelling By Steam" incorporates an old Morris dancing tune and "The Naked Highwayman" is a spirited evocation of amorous adventure in merrie olde England.

The woolly jumper brigade will love this, especially when Nicol applies his rugged, English folk-singing voice to the more earnest lyrics of "The Islands" — a song inspired by the Braer tanker disaster in the Shetlands — and "Jewel In The Crown", a sarcastic rant about the ethos of empire.

But despite some judicious inclusions — notably Clive Gregson's "Home Is Where The Heart Is" and Leonard Cohen's "Closing Time" — it is not an album that casts its net beyond the group's traditional fan base.

REDMAN
Dare Iz A Darkside
(Def Jam/Island 523 846)
NOT to be confused with Yellowman, Darkman, Method Man, Bossman or any of the other men at large in the R&B charts of late, Redman is the nom de rap of Reggie Noble, one of the new breed of tough-talking hip hop dudes with a spelling problem.

Dare Iz A Darkside follows on from the New Yorker's debut, *Whut? Thee Album*, and boasts the usual cheerless litany of threatening language and distasteful sexual imagery.

Underpinned by minimalist, beat-box rhythms and ultra-fat bass lines, titles such as "Bobyahed2dis", "Sooperman Luva II" and "Wudit-looklike" say more than descriptions of their lyrical content ever could.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	**Carry On Up The Charts**	Beautiful South (Go!Discs)
2	**Always & Forever**	Eternal (EMI)
3	**Steam**	East 17 (London)
4	**Cross Road — The Best Of**	Bon Jovi (Jambco)
5	**Crocodile Shoes**	Jimmy Nail (East West)
6	**Definitely Maybe**	Oasis (Creation)
7	**Live At The BBC**	Beatles (Apple)
8	**Parklife**	Blur (Food)
9	**Fields Of Gold — The Best Of 1984-94**	Sting (A&M)
10	**Bizarre Fruit**	M People (Deconstruction)

Compiled by MRIB

هكذا من الأصل

Bruno picks safe option as he angles for title bout

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK BRUNO returns to the West Country for his next bout. Britain's favourite sportsman, who is probably better known in that part of the country for his escapades as Robin Hood in pantomime, at Bristol, than for his boxing prowess, will appear at the West of England showground, at Shepton Mallet, on February 18 against Rodolfo Marin, of Puerto Rico.

"I was Robin Hood — the dark version; I enjoyed myself very much and people looked after me," Bruno said yesterday. "But you can knock the pantomime on the head. This is not pantomime — this is fighting."

Marin may not prove quite the tricky fellow the Sheriff of Nottingham was, however. The Puerto Rican is not even in the first 30 of the World Boxing Council (WBC) rankings of heavyweights — but he could give Bruno a few rounds of much-needed action. As this bout is meant to be no more than a warm-up for a world-title challenge for Oliver McCall's title in late May or early June, it is acceptable.

Bruno said in defence of his choice of a no-risk opponent: "Oliver McCall fought desperate Dan Murphy and knocked him out in one round. Do you want me to fight Dan Murphy? No. Tony Tucker fought Garing Lane. Do you want me to fight Lane? No. The trouble is, there's no one around."

Frank Warren, who is promoting the show together with Don King, underlined Bruno's point. "Most of the guys in the top ten are looking at title shots or looking to fight Mike Tyson," Warren said. "This fellow's durable. He's only been stopped once, by Riddick Bowe, and that's no disgrace. He's a good test."

Marin has had 23 contests, of which he has won 20. He was outpointed by Tyrell Biggs and stopped in two rounds with a broken jaw by Bowe. Last November, he gave Joe Hipp, the WBC No 5, a good fight. Bruno was also offered James Oyebola, the British champion, but it seems that politics got in the way of that match. King did not want to deal with Frank Maloney, according to Warren.

Bruno picked Marin, 30, from a list of four which included Hipp and Alex Garcia, a former leading contender who proved to have a glass chin. Clearly, Bruno believes his choice is sensible and safe. He was not even too upset when Rachel and Nicola, his children, recorded over a taped film of the Puerto Rican.

Bruno needs ring action almost as badly as he needs crowd support. He has boxed only one minute 42 seconds (against Jesse Ferguson last March) since he was stopped in seven rounds by Lennox Lewis in 1993.

That contest, which was universally criticised, even by his friend, Harry Carpenter, was attended by a disappointing 3,000 at the NEC Birmingham, in a hall that could hold 8,000. The centre at Shepton Mallet has a 5,000 capacity. With the help of Ross Hale, the British and Commonwealth light-welterweight champion, the local boxer who is on the bill, Warren may get a respectable gate.

Penthouse sport where professional rolls his own



FREUD ON FRIDAY



Lachlan Deuchar, of the Harbour Club in Chelsea, makes the balls and provides the real tennis competition. Photograph: Alan Weller

The pamphlet stated: "Men in their seventies and eighties derive enormous pleasure from playing, although their joy is as cerebral as it is physical." As that is exactly my kind of joy, I telephoned the Harbour Club in Chelsea and asked if I might have an hour with their professional.

They said: "It will cost £25." And as their professional is Lachlan Deuchar, three times a contender for the world real tennis title, I considered the great value of this compared to say, 20 three-minute rounds with Evander Holyfield: more instructive and less painful also, I should imagine.

Deuchar, a London-based, fifth-generation Australian with Scots ancestry, met me at reception, escorted me to a pristine changing-room in which there was not a towel out of place, opened up a locker for my clothes and said he would come back in a few minutes.

Under the heading "Dress", the pamphlet had proclaimed: "Normal tennis attire is requested".

I have ceased playing tennis, subsequently I have no normal tennis attire — a predicament I appear to share with P. Sampras, who wears khaki coloured shorts, and A. Agassi, garbed in coats of many colours. I settled for grey slacks and a cream-coloured jersey inscribed "The Mississippi Queen" — which I had been given on the eponymous New Orleans riverboat and seldom wear to avoid misunderstanding. (In the 1960s, Her Majesty attended a party at our embassy in Washington, a man was presented to her and she asked him what he did for a living. He said: "I am a photographer." She replied: "What a coincidence, my brother-in-law is a photographer." He replied: "What a coincidence, my brother-in-law is a queen.")

Deuchar said: "You have played this before?"

I agreed.

"You remember some or most of the rules?"

They will come back, I said, optimistically. Nevertheless, he gave me a synopsis of the game, featuring favoured words like "chase", "penthouse", "hazard", "tambour", "grille" and "dedans". He selected a racket — these are shaped like the late Robert Maxwell's carpet slippers on sticks ... and bade me occupy the hazard while he served.

The opening stroke is not the fierce Ivanisevic drive that fizzes across taut net at 118 miles an hour, but a gentle lob onto the sloping roof of the penthouse along which it rolls, picks up speed, executes a right-hand turn when it reaches the end wall and trickles onto the concrete floor. I manage to get a racket behind it, miss the court and hit *The Times* photographer who is sheltering from play in a side gallery.

Deuchar is impressed: where I have mishit the ball turns out to be a scoring shot. The photographer is less impressed, but then he is ignorant of the rules of contest.

Things begin to come back to me: the sagging net, two feet lower in the middle than at the extremities. The fact that the bounce of the ball is uneven: Deuchar's shots make Shane Warne's deliveries predictable by comparison. The player at the service end has much going for him, not least the buttress or *Mail* wall in the receiver's end, which juts out at an angle of about 130° and causes balls that hit it to slither unpredictably across the court.

If you know how to score ... and there are Byzantine benefits that advance your cause, as unpredictable as the prizes in the lottery, you change ends every now and again. In our game, after a few rallies known as "rests", it was me to serve onto the penthouse and try to get the ball to trickle down the far wall at minimal speed; as in squash, the perfect landing place is the crack where the wall meets the floor.

Thanks to the shape of the racket and the unevenness of bounce, I miss the ball as often as I hit it. (Deuchar denies "unevenness", calls it "variety".)

Some time later, armed with three large soft white towels, I adjourned to the changing-room, removed my attire and was about to go to the showers when I heard two women talking animatedly in the area I was about to visit. I waited. Their conversation continued. Had I been a member of this admirable club, I would have written a note in the complaints book ... which would not have been a good idea, for when I stopped to listen, hoping to glean the time of their impending withdrawal, I realised it was a television discussion on the men's changing-room set.

Deuchar met me in the restaurant, bought me an egg benedict and told me that it was he who made the balls — an integral part of the job of a real tennis professional: a 60-gram piece of cork, often the piece of cork that has formed the base of a clapped-out ball, wrapped in strips of cotton webbing until basically round, placed on a circular piece of yellow felt and firmly hand-stitched to secure a seam.

"It is dull work: tedious and not terribly skilful, but if you don't take care you have produced a crummy ball."

Which would be out of place at the Harbour Club ... I suggest.

He agrees. I ask how you can *tell* a cunningly executed top spin from the bounce of a ball that is ready for the knacker's yard. The answer is "experience", and when I suggest that an amateur might blame playing errors on equipment failure, he replies: "It is incumbent upon me to ensure that that excuse is available to the clientele." An Oz diplomat. Rare species. Man will go far.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

BANRUPTCY SALE

CIRO Inc., et al
Case No. 94-B-43389 (JHG)

Notice is hereby given that upon the motion of Alan Cohen, Chapter 11 Trustee ("Trustee") of Ciro Inc., et al, ("Debtors") by his counsel Pryor, Cashman, Sherman & Flynn, a Hearing ("Hearing") will be held before the Honorable Jeffry H. Gallet on January 23, 1995 AT 9:30 A.M. at the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, The Alexander Hamilton Custom House, One Bowling Green, Room 523, New York, New York 10004 (the "Court") for an order authorizing the Trustee to sell substantially all of the assets of the Debtors, free and clear of all liens, with liens to attach to proceeds. The Trustee has received an offer for some of the leases and certain assets related to those leases from EP Acquisition Corp ("EP") which the Trustee will present to the Court, SUBJECT TO HIGHER AND BETTER OFFERS.

ASSETS TO BE SOLD

The Assets to be sold are substantially all of the assets of the debtors including all rights in any trademarks, trade names, including the use of the "Ciro" name in the United States and the name Kenneth Jay Lane, all leases, inventory and non-United States subsidiaries. Bids will be considered for assets on a piece meal and/or bulk basis.

Any party which has an interest in the purchase of any or substantially all of the assets of the Debtors may obtain a copy of the Motion from Pryor, Cashman, Sherman & Flynn, 410 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022, Attention: Tony Massaro, Telephone Number: (212) 326-0417. Terms of sale will also be made available at the Hearing.

Dated: New York, New York
December 16, 1994

BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

/s/ JEFFRY H. GALLET
JEFFRY H. GALLET
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
United Stated Bankruptcy Court
The Alexander Hamilton Custom House
One Bowling Green - Room 523
New York, New York 10004

ALAN COHEN
CHAPTER II TRUSTEE
Also Capital Corp.
745 Fifth Avenue - Suite 1506
New York, New York, 10151
(212) 751-9150

HAROLD D. JONES, ESQ.
Pryor, Cashman, Sherman & Flynn
410 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 326-0417

Advertisement of Creditor's Meeting Under Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986
Registered in England and Wales

Abrasprove Property Co Ltd	Registered Number 812717
Chasta Investment Co Ltd	Registered Number 659672
Clayhope Properties Ltd	Registered Number 1356813
Cuffeham Ltd	Registered Number 1375664
Cranehill Estates Ltd	Registered Number 1511558
Eura Investment Co Ltd	Registered Number 630967
Haldene Ltd	Registered Number 1303916
Pancia Property Co Ltd	Registered Number 719985
Pollway Ltd	Registered Number 982784
Pollway Nominees Ltd	Registered Number 1182591
Suegan Ltd	Registered Number 918344
Topborough Ltd	Registered Number 1866577
Unmanee Ltd	Registered Number 2177737

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act, 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at St. Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH at 10.30am on 11 January 1995 for the purpose of having laid before it a copy of a report prepared by the administrative receiver(s) under the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a creditors committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors' committees by or under the Act.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge with me at 4th Floor, St. Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH no later than 12 noon on 10 January 1995 details of the debts they claim to be due to them by the company, together with the proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. 21 December 1994

Ludslav Hannas Administrative Receiver

Note: Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.

JAMES CAPEL (FINANCIAL FUTURES) LIMITED
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
- COMPANY NUMBER: 784962
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above named company intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith KPMG Peat Marwick, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 3 February 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make a final distribution and that such a distribution will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: the company is able to pay all known creditors in full.
R Smith - Liquidator
Dated: 3 January 1995

JAMES CAPEL GILTS LIMITED
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
- COMPANY NUMBER: 1819680
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above-named company intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith KPMG Peat Marwick, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 3 February 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make a final distribution and that such a distribution will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: the company is able to pay all known creditors in full.
R Smith - Liquidator
Dated: 3 January 1995

AUROSA LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 1087909
AUROSA PROPERTY INVESTMENTS LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 366622
BROOKWORTH LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 1766688
CLEGG & HUNTINGDON LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 298770
CONCEPT CARPETS & BEDDING LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 477770
HARTLEY (CARPETS) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 948531
HEADROW CLOTHES LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 316658
HENRY BARKER SMART & BROWN LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 56233
HENRY FREEDMAN LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 368677
LANHAMS LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 330606
H.J & F LAWTON LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 496661
JOHN ANSLOW LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 68611
LARLANC LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 688339
JOSEPH MAY & SONS (LEEDS) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 561213
MACOWARDS (INVESTMENTS) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 165209
MACOWARDS INDUSTRIAL WEAR LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 746643
MAENSON CLOTHES LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 236554
PROCTORS LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 183209
SAXON HAWK (SOUTHPORT) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 1717702
SAXON HAWK & COMPANY INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 997380
SAXON HAWK & COMPANY MANUFACTURING LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 999840
SAXON HAWK & COMPANY FURNISHERS LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 999778
SAXON HAWK (SAVILE ROW) LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 661368
SAXON HAWK CONTRACTS & EXPORT LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 461485
SAXON HAWK FINANCE LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 461485
SAXON HAWK FURNISHERS PLC
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 2004496
SAXON HAWK SERVICES LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 614100
SUPER CLOTHING CO. LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 301483
THE WHOLESALE BESPOKE TAILORING COMPANY LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' LIQUIDATION)
COMPANY NUMBER: 215485
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE COMPANIES
On 21 December 1994 the above companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Gordon Christopher Horsfield and Roger Marsh of Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2SP, were appointed liquidators by the shareholders.
The liquidators give notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the above companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to the liquidators, at the above address by 31 January 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidators also give notice that they will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The company is able to pay all its known creditors in full.
Date: 21 December 1994
Roger Marsh
Joint Liquidator

No. 006497 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF ISKRA LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 21st day of December 1994 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £1,423,674 to £327,445 and the minute approved by the Court shall with respect to the company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 23rd day of December 1994.
Dated this 6th day of January 1995
Kingsford Stacey
14 Old Square
Lincoln's Inn
LONDON WC2A 3UB
Solicitors for the above named company

No. 007824 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
Mr Registrar Buckley
IN THE MATTER OF PRIVATE HOLDINGS LIMITED
and IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 21st December 1994 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £10,000,000 to £5,000,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-named Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 22nd December 1994.
Dated the 4th day of January 1995
SIMMONS & SIMMONS
14 DOMINION STREET
LONDON EC2M 2RJ
Tel: 0171 628 2020
Ref: PGF
Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 006487 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF RIGHTON LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 21st December 1994 confirming the reduction of the share capital of the above named Company by £4,647,000 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21st December 1994.
Dated this 6th day of January 1995
Stevens & Co
5 Colemore Circus
Birmingham
B4 6BH
Ref: RGR/AKE
Solicitors for the above named Company.

No 007288 of 1994
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF PAVILION INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 20th December 1994 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 22nd December 1994.
Dated this 4th day of January 1995
DAVENPORT LYONS
1 Old Burlington Street
London W1X 1LA
Solicitors for the above-named Company

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO APPLY FOR A 200 LICENCE
1. We Holdenby Falconry Centre Of Holdenby House
HOLDENBY, Northampton
hereby give notice that on not less than two months after the publication of this notice We intend to make application to the Daventry District Council for a licence to operate a proposed zoo at HOLDENBY
2. A written notice of the intention to make application for a zoo licence, giving details about the proposed zoo, has been sent to the said Council. This may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of the Council at: Daventry District Council Environmental Health Department Civic Offices Lodge Road Daventry Northants between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday
Signed J. Lowther (Director)

ROBSON LOWE LIMITED
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
- COMPANY NUMBER: 1479918
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above-named company intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith at KPMG Peat Marwick, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 3 February 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make a final distribution and that such a distribution will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: the company is able to pay all known creditors in full.
R Smith - Liquidator
Dated: 3 January 1995

STALLCROWN LIMITED:
COMPANY NUMBER: 1448130
FIRST SIX SECURITIES LIMITED: 1650725
DEEPHOLD LIMITED: 2016781
SIDCUP LIMITED: 2526564
FAYMONDED LIMITED: 1977382
SECOND LONDON WALL MANAGEMENT LIMITED: 1615604
LET RETAIL CORPORATION LIMITED: 2316798
CLARSHAW LIMITED: 1395012
IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTRY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF THE ABOVE NAMED COMPANIES
On 23 December 1994 the above named companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Anthony Victor Lomas of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A on the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the above companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator at No1 London Bridge London SE1 9QL by 31 January 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
Each company is able to pay all its known creditors in full
Date 23 December 1994
AV Lomas
AVL/CD/ YMVSL07/090LP

STANDARD CHARTERED EQUITY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED
- COMPANY NUMBER: 1772745
SCR MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED
- COMPANY NUMBER: 1916775
(BOTH IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rules 4.182A and 11.2 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Liquidator of the above companies intends to make a distribution to the creditors. Creditors are required to submit full details of their claims and their names and addresses to the Liquidator, Roger Smith at KPMG Peat Marwick, PO Box 750, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP on or before Friday 19 February 1995 which is the last day for proving claims. Notice is also given that the Liquidator proposes to make a final distribution and that such a distribution will be made without regard to any claims not made by the date mentioned.
Note: the company is able to pay all known creditors in full.
R Smith - Liquidator
Dated: 3 January 1995

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
071-782 7344
OR
FAX: 071-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP: Semi-final series: Group B: Olympiakos 99 Barcelona 78, Eles Istanbul 67 Cibona Zagreb 62. Group A: Pesaro: Pesaro 82 PAOK Salonika 70.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham 88 (Lloyd 32, Dorsey 22, Samuels 19) Worthing 89 (Irish 37, Cunningham 20, Harried 17)

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Boston 117 Miami 113, Charlotte 118 Portland 106; Seattle 116 Cleveland 85, Indiana 94 Washington 80; New York 89 Atlanta 80, Orlando 113 New Jersey 110; Chicago 88 Denver 80; Phoenix 127 Philadelphia 122

FOOTBALL

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Carleton Town v Cinderford Town.

Wednesday's late results

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Rangers 1 Celtic 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Christchurch 6 Eastleigh 1

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Southampton 0 Watford 0; Bristol Rovers 2 Arsenal 3. League Cup: Cardiff 2 Birmingham 3. Other games postponed.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sunderland 1 Bolton 1. Other games postponed

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Chippenham Town 5 Westbury Utd 1.

MIDDLESEX SENIOR CUP: Staines 1 Enfield 1 (aet)

FRENCH CUP: Second round: Paris Saint-Germain 1 Auxerre 0

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Maritimo 0 Benfica 3.

THE TIMES
SNOWLINE
0891 333 568
24hr skiing information direct from resorts inc
AUSTRIA • FRANCE • SWITZERLAND
ITALY • REST OF EUROPE
N. AMERICA/CANADA •
SPAIN/ANDORRA/ROMANIA/BULGARIA
ETA
WEATHERLINE
0891 333 462
Comprehensive outlook in the skiing areas for the week ahead
SKI CLUB
Calls cost 39p/min cheap rate, 49p/min at all other times

CRICKET

DURBAN: Tour match (second day of four) Natal 391 (D Crookes 83, D Benkenstein 76; Kabir Khan 4-70) and 73-1; Pakistanis 247 (Waqar Younis 65, Kuisener 4-63)

MOTOR RALLYING

DAKAR RALLY: Fourth stage: 1, J-P Fontenay (Mitsubishi, Fr) 4hr 01mn 25sec; 2, A Vatanen (Citroën, Fin) at 1mn 44sec; 3, K Shinozuka (Mitsubishi, Japan) at 5:20; 4, T Salonen (Citroën, Fin) at 7:46; 5, B Saby (Mitsubishi, Fin) at 7:48. Overall: 1, Vatanen 13hr 08mn 31sec; 2, Salonen at 14mn 05sec; 3, Saby at 18:45; 4, P Lartigue (Citroën, Fr) at 20:18; 5, Fontenay at 29:23; 6, Shinozuka at 43:20; 7, J-L Schlesser (Buggy, Fr) at 2hr 49mn 38sec; 8, D Guedes (Nissan, Por) at 4.01:14. Motorcycles: 1, H Knigadner (KTM, Austria) 4hr 39mn 31sec; 2, J Arcarons (Cagiva, Sp) at 8mn 51sec; 3, S Peteinsel (Yamaha, Fr) at 9:32. Overall: 1, Knigadner 15hr 08mn 28sec; 2, Arcarons at 16mn 51sec; 3, Peteinsel at 25:11.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Mold v Holywell.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v Sligo (8.0), St Patrick's Ath v Derry (7.45).

FA VASE: Third round replay: Liskeard v Tunbridge Wells.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship

First division

Featherstone v Hull (7.30) ....

OTHER SPORT

DARTS: Embassy world championship (Frimley Green)

SQUASH: British junior open championships (Lambs Club, London)

TABLE TENNIS: English Open (Thornaby).

DARTS

FRIMLEY GREEN: British Darts Organisation world championship: Second round: M Adams (Eng) bt K Painter (Eng) 3-0; R Burnett (Wales) bt R Stewart (Aus) 3-2; P Hogan (Eng) bt S Palfrey (Wales) 3-0; P Williams (Eng) bt J Part (Can) 3-2; A Fordham (Eng) bt R Sharp (Scot) 3-2.

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British under-24 championship: *Second round: A Smith*-Bingham bt A Hodgson 7-15, 15-7, 15-8; A Scammell bt A Hiccock 18-17, 15-9, 17-14; H Eddis bt M Ward 11-15, 15-8, 15-7; R Montgomerie bt C Walsh 15-8, 15-2; J Acheson-Gray bt R Tate 8-15, 15-5, 15-9; P Davis-Jones bt J Boddington 10-15, 15-5, 15-9; J Walsh bt B Newman 15-8, 15-4; M Windows bt E Behn 10-15, 18-13, 15-3.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Second division: Barrow 14 Dewsbury 24

SQUASH

LAMBS CLUB, London: British junior open championships: Boys: Under-19: Semi-finals: C Thominson (Kent) bt J Dale (Northumbria) 9-3, 9-3; 9-4, I Huggins (Essex) bt M Koppitz (Germany) 9-4, 10-8, 9-0. Under-16: Quarter-finals: A Fakry (Egypt) bt J Gutierrez (Arg) 9-2, 9-0, 9-3; A Shabana (Egypt) bt A Grant (Kent) 9-0, 9-5, 9-5; Ong Beng Hee (Malay) bt J Smith (Yorks) 9-6, 9-4, 9-2; J Russell (Kent) bt C Wheal (Essex) 9-0, 9-0, 9-0. Semi-finals: Fazy bt Shabana 9-0, 9-1, 9-3; Hee bt Russell 2-9, 9-7, 9-0, 9-3. Under-14: Quarter-finals: K Darwish (Egypt) bt A Crane (Sussex) 9-6, 9-3, 9-1; J Kemp (Salop) bt N Van Caesbroek (Bel) 9-5, 9-7, 9-4; A Sheilds (Herts) bt P Flint (Sussex) 9-1, 10-9, 9-5; A Mango (Sp) bt A Youssef (Egypt) 9-6, 7-9, 5-9, 9-5, 10-8. Kemp bt Darwish 4-9, 1-9, 9-4, 9-7, 9-6. Girls: Under-19: Quarter-finals: J Wilson (NZ) bt J Thrusher (Yorks) 9-2, 9-1, 9-1; S Bind (Kent) bt S Shabana (Egypt) 9-6, 7-9, 9-0, 9-5, 9-7; T Shenton (Staffs) bt K Hannes (Bel) 10-8, 9-4, 10-8; D Leeves (Sussex) bt V Atkinson (Holl) 9-10, 9-7, 9-8, 9-0. Semi-finals: Wilson bt Brind 9-3, 9-5, 9-1; Leeves bt Shenton 0-9, 9-3, 8-10, 9-7, 10-8. Under-16: Quarter-finals: I Sloehr (Fr) bt N Clark (Sussex) 9-5, 9-2, 9-4; S Lefebs (Ger) bt H Easton (Lancs) 9-3, 9-0, 6-9, 9-7; T Bailey (Lincs) bt L Sans (Sp) 9-0, 9-3, 9-1; L Hamilton (Sco) bt E Morgans (Northerns) 9-3, 9-2, 9-1. Semi-finals: Sloehr bt Lefebs 9-2, 9-1, 9-4, Bailey bt Hamilton 9-7, 9-5, 9-4. Under-14: Quarter-finals: S Leong (Malay) bt V Lankester (Suffolk) 1-9, 10-8, 9-4, 8-10, 9-5; E Sado (Sp) bt I El Amr (Egypt) 9-1, 9-1, 9-3; S Godfrey (Sussex) bt S Berry (Kent) 9-2, 9-3, 9-5; D Lloyd-Walter (Middx) bt G Garner (Sussex) 9-1, 9-0, 9-0. Semi-final: Sado bt Leong, 9-5 9-2 9-1

TENNIS

ADELAIDE: Men's tournament: Second round (Australia unless stated): J Courier (US) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt H Holm (Swe) 7-5, 6-3; M Woodforde bt J Bates (GB) 7-6, 6-4; T Enqvist (Swe) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-4, 6-4

PERTH: Hopman Cup: Semi-final: Ukraine 2 Czech Republic 1. (Ukraine names first) N Medvedeve bt J Novotna 6-1, 6-7, 6-3; A Medvedev bt P Korda 7-6, 7-6, Medvedev and Medvedeva lost to Korda and Novotna 3-6 (one set played)

DOHA: Men's tournament: Second round: J Siemerink (Holl) bt G Forget (Fr) 6-3, 7-6; H Laconte (Fr) bt F de Wulf (Bel) 6-3, 7-6; J Sánchez (Sp) bt K Braasch (Ger) 6-7, 6-0, 6-4; M Stich (Ger) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-4, 7-5.

JAKARTA: Indonesia: Women's tournament: Fourth round: S Hack (Ger) bt J Steven (US) 6-3, 6-3; I Spirlea (Rom) bt D Monami (Bel) 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, N Miyagi (Japan) bt C Porwik (US) 6-1, 0-6, 6-1; J Nejedly (Can) bt K Kschwandt (Ger) 6-1, 6-4; M Strandlund (Swe) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; T Krizan (Slovakia) bt M Paz (Arg) 7-5, 7-5; Y Basuki (Indo) bt E Iida (Japan) 6-3, 6-1; Wang Shi-Ting (Taiwan) bt S Rotter (Holl) 6-3, 6-4

RACING

Commentary
Call 0891 500 123
Results
Call 0891 100 123
Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times

YACHTING

ADELAIDE: Flying Dutchman world championship: Overall positions after fourth day: 1, S Maltharyi (Hun); 2, I McCagean (Aus); 3, D Fagan (US); 4, R Conani (It); 5, P Francis (NZ); 6, N Rydge (Aus); 7, H A Koenig (Ger); 8, M Krings (Ger). 9, M Dorrer (Ger). 10, B Leckie (Aus).

THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	35	95	good	varied	icy	sun	-5	2/1
Schladming	*20*	*60*	*fair*	*varied*	*icy*	*fine*	*-5*	*4/1*
(Hochwurzen pistes very good; icy snow at resort level)								
St Anton	40	180	good	powder	fair	sun	-10	4/1
(Excellent skiing conditions thanks to cold weather)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	45	130	good	varied	good	sun	-13	3/1
(Generally very good skiing; moguls slopes now icier)								
Les Arcs	35	155	good	varied	fair	fine	-7	3/1
(Very good piste skiing; avalanche danger persisting)								
Avoriaz	95	160	good	powder	good	sun	-14	2/1
(Excellent snow conditions; still bitterly cold)								
Chamonix	25	250	good	moguls	varied	fine	-5	2/1
(Excellent skiing continues: more snow forecast soon)								
Courchevel	60	130	good	varied	good	sun	-11	2/1
(Excellent piste skiing; off-piste now cut up)								
Tignes	75	180	good	varied	good	sun	-10	3/1
(Excellent skiing on all pistes; superb conditions)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	60	90	good	powder	good	sun	-8	2/1
(Best skiing of the season; all lifts and pistes open)								
Verbier	100	200	good	varied	good	fine	-5	2/1
(Good skiing top to bottom; good moguls on Tortin)								
Wengen	50	80	good	powder	good	fine	-8	2/1
(Excellent skiing continues; all lifts open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

ORMING
(c) Ungainly and clumsy in movement, tall and awkward: gawping and staring.
1913, D. H. Lawrence, *Love Poems*: "Niver a baby had eyes/ As sulky an' ormin' as thine."

POROPORO
(a) A shrub, *Solanum aviculare*, belonging to the family Solanaceae, native to Australia and New Zealand, and bearing violet-blue flowers followed by large orange berries; also called bulibuli or kangaroo apple.
1882, W. D.Hay, *Brighter Britain!*: "Among indigenous vegetable productions came the berries of poro

Hills stays a step ahead of the game

Richard Evans meets a trainer prepared to back his faith in the future by building a new complex

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Hills supervises his horses cosseted in one of the American-style barns at the new Faringdon Place training centre close to Lambourn

The construction statistics alone hint at the sheer scale of the project: the excavation of 18,000 cubic metres of hard chalk and topsoil, the 750 cubic metres of concrete needed for foundations and floors and the 65 tons of structual steelwork required for buildings to house and exercise the horses.

The fact that the first of 70,000 clay facing bricks and 30,000 smooth-faced concrete blocks was not laid until the middle of July — only four months before horses arrived in their new premises — is testimony to the speed of the enterprise.

However, impressive as the logistics are, they do not begin to tell the story of Faringdon Place, the new purpose-built training centre of Barry Hills on the outskirts of Lambourn in Berkshire. For the £1 million brainchild of the classic winning trainer is, above all, a statement of faith in the future.

Having sent out around 1,400 winners from his old base at South Bank, two miles away, it would have been easy at the age of 57 to have kept plodding on from there, or to have succumbed to the temptation of retirement days spent golfing and shooting.

But that is not the style of a man who has never been afraid of a challenge since landing the mother and father of a gamble on Frankincense in the 1968 Lincoln — the proceeds of which enabled him to start training the following year.

Despite the good times at South Bank, including sending out three classic winners last year, Hills became increasingly aware that he was handicapped by the antiquated yard, with its dark and dingy boxes belonging to a bygone era. He was having to work with the equivalent of a quill pen in the computer age. Hills, whose eyes had been opened during four highly successful years at Robert Sangster's modern complex at Manton, was adamant. Either he created a purpose-built training complex in tune with the times — or he packed up.

The trainer said: "I made up my mind some time ago what I wanted. It took a lot of pushing and shoving to get it through and get it going. A lot of people would not have done it at my age but I have still got a good appetite for the game, even if I don't agree with everything that is going on."

First, he had to persuade Newbury district council to give planning permission for houses on South Bank, so he could finance the new yard. As the biggest employer of stable staff in the racing village, the local planners were sympathetic.

Then he had to become involved in the nitty-gritty of the project. "Quite apart from training the horses, it is a big undertaking for anybody, especially some bloody idiot like me who doesn't know anything about it."

Maybe, but Hills had firm ideas about what he wanted and he is not a person easily denied. At the heart of the complex are two American-style barns, each with 41 boxes. "I had the experience of the barns at Manton and I have taken that as my starting point, but have Rolls-Royced them."

In particular, he has paid attention to air temperature and ventilation. Professor John Webster, head of the department of animal husbandry at the University of Bristol, helped with the design of the barns to protect horses from the effects of sudden changes in weather and achieve good air hygiene, even in cold conditions.

"It is important to try to get a constant temperature so the horses are not suffering from extreme changes. The emphasis here is very much on the wellbeing of the horse. In the past we seemed to get our major problems in the spring when temperatures are going up and down dramatically. Hopefully, that will be eliminated now," Hills added.

Apart from a natural ventilation scheme which will provide for between two and 12 air changes per hour — extreme winter to excess summer conditions — an unusually high degree of natural lighting has been achieved — an important aid in the physiological development of horses.

Nothing has been left to chance. Under their hooves, the horses have a seamless rubber surface in each box, every bit as expensive as carpeting a living room. "These boxes are built even better than those houses," Hills quipped, pointing to two three-bedroomed cottages for his senior staff.

Away from the barns, complete with vet's room, tack room and drying room, an indoor covered riding school is used for breaking in yearlings, introducing horses to starting stalls and exercising the string during bad weather. Outside, a storage lagoon, sited near a new horse walk, collects roof water for use in the summer on an all-weather gallop. Perhaps most important of all, the whole complex is opposite Hills's extensive turf gallops, thus saving his horses a stressful walk along busy roads.

"This is taking a step into the next century and, hopefully, being a modern yard, it should work very well for the horses. I think it will be successful. I have got every confidence in it and I think it will be a sign of things to come in the future."

Nap: CYBORGO
(3.40 Uttoxeter)
Next best: Cruising Chick
(2.10 Uttoxeter)

Prospects good for weekend meetings

MILDER weather has improved prospects of a quick return to turf racing. Only Towcester, where an inspection for today's meeting was planned for 7.30am, report any problems and even there the chances are rated at 70-30 in favour of the meeting going ahead.

The going at Uttoxeter, today's other turf fixture, is reported as heavy but it stopped raining there yesterday afternoon and no inspection is planned.

Hopes are also high for tomorrow's three televised meetings at Sandown, Haydock and Warwick. The Sandown clerk of the course, Andrew Cooper, said yesterday: "We could have raced today. We have had some rain. There is only a slight frost forecast for the next two nights and we are optimistic that racing will go ahead."

All the frost has come out of the ground at Haydock, where the advance going is soft and although the ground at Warwick is heavy, the clerk of the course, Peter McNeile, said: "The course is quite raceable at the moment."

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

1.10 Nipper Reed
1.40 Lacurva
2.10 Cruising Chick
2.40 HOPS AND POPS (nap)
3.10 Duchess Of Tubber
3.40 Cyborgo

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.40 HOPS AND POPS.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. C — clipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F of flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: HEAVY SIS

1.10 JENKINSONS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,120: 2m) (7 runners)

101	4122	IRKUTSK 11 (BF,S) (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 4-11-10 ..... R Dunwoody	87
102	P61311	NIPPER REED 6 (CD,S) (G Piper) R Simpson 5-11-0 (7ex) ..... D Gallagher	99
103	U0-4320	LIAB 18 (Mrs L Parker) J Parker 5-10-8 ..... F Leahy (5)	93
104	40PF-53	KIRKTON GREY 11 (B) (A Bell) C Parker 8-10-5 ..... Mr D Parker (5)	98
105	041	PETITJEAN 21 (CD,S) (R Williams) D Burchell 4-10-3 ..... D J Burchell	89
106	P6-0422	SALINGER 11 (V Doble) J Parker 7-10-3 ..... A Thornton	99
107	6404P-0	MARINERS COVE 82 (R Cawthorn) R Dickin 7-10-0 ..... D Meredith (3)	92

Long handicap: Mariners Cove 9-11.

BETTING: 6-4 Nipper Reed, 5-2 Irkutsk, 11-2 Salinger, 8-1 Kirkton Grey, Petitjean, 12-1 Iyas, 33-1 Mariners Cove.
1994: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS

IRKUTSK head 2nd of 14 to Wizzy Lizzy in juvenile hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy). NIPPER REED completed double, beat Kinzvi 25l in 6-runner novices' handicap hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). LIAB 11 2nd of 13 to Goodmaker in selling hurdle over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start.

KIRKTON GREY 5l4l 3rd of 16 to After Grace in novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, soft). PETITJEAN beat Alaskan Heir 8l in 12-runner selling hurdle over course and distance (soft). SALINGER 2l 2nd of 9 to White Willow in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: IRKUTSK (nap)

1.40 ORBITAL CENTRE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,526: 2m 5f) (8 runners)

201	00-1114	DOUALAGO 30 (B,F,B,S) (Manton Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 5-11-10 ... P Hide	89
202	2F-P130	JUPITER MOON 11 (D,S,S) (G Swinbank) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-0 ... T Jenks	88
203	4P5332	TWIN STATES 11 (S) (J Turner) J Turner 6-10-5 ..... W Fry	88
204	P5SPPF	LU-FLYING MISSILE 6 (B Clifford) R Dickin 7-10-4 ..... D Meredith	–
205	43600-F	LACURVA 24 (D Price) M Wellington 7-10-0 ..... P Ward (4)	–
206	P1F9	LLACCA SAM 245P (S) (H Thursfield) M Easterby 8-10-0 ..... G Hogan	–
207	40-3352	ERLEMO 24 (T O'Malley) W Clay 5-10-0 ..... F Leahy	–
208	0-44P06	MABTHUL 11 (F) (B Hinz) R Juckes 7-10-0 ..... P McLoughlin	–

Long handicap: Lacurva 9-8, Llacca Sam 9-7, Erlemo 9-5, Mabthul 9-1.

BETTING: 2-1 Douslago, 5-2 Lacurva, 3-1 Twin States, 8-1 Lu-Flying Missile, 10-1 Jupiter Moon, Llacca Sam, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

DOULAGO 40l 4th of 6 to Northants in novice chase at Haydock (3m, soft). Previously beat Cregg Boreen 13l in 5-runner novices' handicap chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
JUPITER MOON 7½l 3rd of 15 to Barney Rubble in novice chase at Hexham (3m 1f, heavy) on penultimate start. TWIN STATES 8l 2nd of 10 to Master Boston in novice chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good to soft), with JUPITER MOON (2lb worse off) 66l 7th. LACURVA leading when fell 3 out in novice chase won by Tyrone Bridge at Southwell (3m 110yd, soft). LLACA SAM best point-to-point effort last season, beat Denzil's Boy in 10-runner confined maiden at Garrons (3m, good to soft). ERLEMO 16l 2nd of 14 to Dualcue Chase in novices' selling hurdle at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
Selection: TWIN STATES

2.10 ED WEETMAN NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£1,896: 2m) (10 runners)

301	00	LIAM'S LOSS 20 (N Enright) J Parker 6-11-5 ..... A Thornton	–
302	0P	ROUND OF DRINKS 16 (The T D O O E Partnership) H Oliver 5-11-5 Jacqui Oliver	–
303	0	ZEPALIAS 80 (Miss B Oliver) J Jefferson 5-11-5 ..... P Niven	–
304	P0-PP0R	STEPPING 20 (J Turner) J Turner 5-11-0 ..... S Turner	–
305	0-0	WINDERMERE TERRACE 20 (M Johnson) M Meagher 5-11-0 ..... L Wyer	–
306	56l	NORDIC VALLEY 6 (D,S) (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 4-10-13 ..... R Dunwoody	93
307	24102	MINSTER'S MADAM 6 (V,S) (M & N Pland Ltd) R Simpson 4-10-8 D Gallagher	88
308	003	CASSIO'S BOY 7 (V) (Lyonshall Racing) R Ecclery 4-10-7 ..... I Lawrence	–
309	4	CRUISING CHICK 28 (Mrs A Norton) S Norton 4-10-2 ..... O Pears	(5)
310	0	PORTAMENTO 34 (J Turner) J Turner 4-10-2 ..... W Fry (7)	–

BETTING: 4-5 Nordic Valley, 5-2 Cruising Chick, 7-2 Minster's Madam, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

NORDIC VALLEY beat Full Shilling 25l in 4-runner selling hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). MINSTER'S MADAM 13l 2nd of 7 to Nordic Crown in novices' claiming hurdle at Nottingham (2m, good to soft). Earlier beat Rinus Major 3l in 7-runner selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, soft), with CASSIO'S BOY (6lb better off) 38l 7th. CASSIO'S BOY neck and distance 3rd of 8 to Alaskan Heir in selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, heavy). CRUISING CHICK 9l 4th of 14 to Tribune in selling hurdle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). PORTAMENTO 40l 8th of 10 to Uncle Doug in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good).
Selection: NORDIC VALLEY

2.40 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,772: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

401	4PP-P1P	G'TIME A BUZZ 11 (V,BF,G,S) (D Beresford) M Pipe 7-11-5 ..... R Dunwoody	78
402	1141-10	HOPS AND POPS 28 (F,B,S) (H Westacott) R Alner 8-11-5 ..... S Earle	89
403	021-1	IVY EDITH 88 (F,S) (G Ankill) T Mills 5-11-5 ..... S Ryan (7)	86
404	03/P1	WELL IT LAST 17 (S) (Mrs T Watkins) N Babbage 9-11-5 ... Philip Hughes (7)	55
405	55/30/	GALA'S PRIDE 1000 (A Tielson-Davies) N Tielson-Davies 8-10-12 T Jenks (3)	–
406	0/5	WADSWICK COUNTRY 78 (A Jones) A Jones, 8-10-12 ..... L Harvey	–

BETTING: 11-10 Hops And Pops, 11-4 G'time A Buzz, 9-2 Ivy Edith, 5-1 Will It Last, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

G'TIME A BUZZ beat Home From The Hill 74l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft) on penultimate start. HOPS AND POPS 34l 7th of 8 to Beside Not To in grade 2 Kennel Gate Novice Hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good). Previously beat Hugs Mistake 15l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft). IVY EDITH beat Glencaring Gale 20l in 4-runner novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 3f, firm). WILL IT LAST beat Pede Gale 9l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Hereford (3m 1f, good to soft). GALA'S PRIDE 20½l 3rd of 15 to Will Please in hurdle at Downpatrick (2m 3f, soft) on penultimate start (March 1992).
Selection: HOPS AND POPS

3.10 DOUGLAS CONCRETE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,918: 3m 2f) (10 runners)

501	18414-P	THE TARTAN SPARTAN 20 (F,S) M Wilkinson 11-11-10 ..... P Ward (7)	93
502	11P/4PP-	HOLY FOLEY 323 (F,S,S) (H Karswell) A Bishop 13-11-6 ..... R Greene	–
503	50U10-0	CAROUSEL ROCKET 41 (D,F,S,S) (A Saccoronado) M Hammond 12-11-5 P Niven	89
504	60P4-53	CATCHAPENNY 28 (B,CD,S,S) (Mariton In Mend) Miss H Knight 10-11-5 R Farrant	98
505	5P14-R	MASTER GLEASON 57 (S) (R Kirkpatrick) M Pipe 12-10-13 ..... R Dunwoody	–
506	60-0413	DUCHESS OF TUBBER 11 (S) R Fisher 7-10-12 ..... A Thornton	91
507	3PP-21P	POP SONG 8 (D,BF,F,G,S) (S Reel & Roe 11-10-9 ..... J Railton	97
508	PP-PF41	LASTOFTHEVIKINGS 11 (S) (J Needham) J Needham 10-10-7 (6ex) D Gallagher	(5)
509	48PS-3P	JOLLY JAUNT 20 (S) (Miss D Baker) Miss D Baker 10-10-5 ..... 2nd pref	94
510	44-2042	ITS A SNIP 8 (B,S) (The Icy Fire Partnership) C Mann 10-10-0 J R Kavanagh	89

Long handicap: Its A Snip 9-0.

BETTING: 3-1 Catchapenny, 7-2 Lastofthevikings, 4-1 Duchess Of Tubber, 7-1 The Tartan Spartan, 8-1 Its A Snip, 10-1 Carousel Rocket, 12-1 Master Gleason, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

THE TARTAN SPARTAN best effort last season, beat Camden Belle 10l in 4-runner handicap chase at Lingfield (3m, soft). CAROUSEL ROCKET 45l last of 8 to Tartan Tradewinds in handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, good). Best effort last season, beat De The Hooch 2l to 8-runner handicap chase at Newcastle (3m, firm). CATCHAPENNY 31l 3rd of 13 to Mawcenick in handicap chase at Nottingham (3m 3f 110yd, good to soft). DUCHESS OF TUBBER 79l 3rd of 5 to Eastern Oasis in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 3f 110yd, soft). POP SONG beat L'Uomo Piu short-head in 9-runner handicap chase at Taunton (3m, good) on penultimate start. MASTER GLEASON hampered and reduced 14th. LASTOFTHEVIKINGS beat New Halen 7l in 6-runner handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, soft). ITS A SNIP 2l 2nd of 13 to Haughty Nicky in handicap chase at Taunton (3m 3f, soft). POP SONG tailed off when pulled up 4 out.
Selection: LASTOFTHEVIKINGS

3.40 NEEDWOOD RACING HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,947: 3m 110yd) (7 runners)

601	12F16-1	CYBORGO 28 (D,S) (County Stores Holdings Ltd) M Pipe 5-12-0 R Dunwoody	97
602	31F0-13	TINDARI 30 (D,C,S) (J Jefferson) J Jefferson 7-11-10 ..... B Toomey (5)	91
603	2321P-1	DO BE HAVE 11 (D,S) (D Walker) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-9 (5ex) ... W Marston	(5)
604	43/2-460	TARKOVSKY 17 (D,S) (J Watkins) R Price 10-10-3 ..... P McLoughlin (5)	90
605	3P25-21	MR PICKPOCKET 29 (C,S) (R Sayer) J Akehurst 7-10-3 ..... G Bradley	88
606	2012-23	GREAT MAX 43 (BF,S) (R Green) C Parker 6-10-0 ..... Mr D Parker (5)	96
607	141-841	EASTERN PLEASURE 7 (B,C,S) (Mrs V Wood) W Clay 8-10-0 (5ex) F Leahy (5)	80

Long handicap: Great Max 9-12, Eastern Pleasure 9-12.

BETTING: 7-4 Cyborgo, 5-2 Do Be Have, 3-1 Mr Pickpocket, 4-1 Tindari, 14-1 Great Max, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

CYBORGO beat Ivy House 7l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, good to soft). TINDARI 45½l 3rd of 5 to Overlord in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). DO BE HAVE beat Allegation 7l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good).
TARKOVSKY 16l 11th of 19 to Lumumba Days in handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, good to soft). MR PICKPOCKET beat Nick The Beak 23½l in 15-runner handicap hurdle here (3m 4f 110yd, soft). GREAT MAX 2½l 2nd of 7 to Ivy House in handicap hurdle at Ayr (3m 110yd, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: CYBORGO

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
M Pipe	45	139	32.4	Jacqui Oliver	4	14	28.6
N Twiston-Davies	12	66	18.2	P Niven	6	22	27.3
D Burchell	7	41	17.1	R Dunwoody	37	157	23.6
R Dickin	4	31	12.9	B Bradley	7	36	19.4
Mrs J Pitman	7	73	9.6	J Railton	7	50	14.0
Miss H Knight	4	48	8.3	D Gallagher	8	59	13.6

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

12.50 Target Line. 1.20 Chichell's Hurst. 1.50 Bucket Of Gold. 2.20 Repeat The Dose. 2.50 Balanak. 3.20 Tort. 3.50 Juitara.

GOING: HEAVY (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

12.50 OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,023: 2m 5f) (12 runners)

1	6-69	PUNCHBAG 4 (V,BF,S,S) G Hanmer 9-11-13 ..... D Fortt	97
2	P646	GEORGE BUCKINGHAM 11 (D,S) G Hanmer 10-11-12 G Tormey	97
3	/00	WITH GUSTO 11 J Bridger 8-11-11 ..... S Wynne	–
4	5524	ROWLANDSONS GOLD 22 (BF,S) S L Moore 5-11-8 A P McCoy	96
5	P/P-	WAY-DAY-WAY 454 (S) J Upson 5-11-7 ..... C Davies (7)	–
6	6515	TARGET LINE 20 (S) Mrs S Smith 5-11-6 ..... R Williamson (5)	94
7	0P55	CHAMPAGNE RUN 4 (B,D,F,S) S Knight 10-11-0 ..... S O'Donnell (5)	–
8	0002	CHILTERN HUNDREDS 24 Mrs J Mayes 5-11-0 ..... P Hide	98
9	FR-R	LEGAL WIN 36F (F) A Foster 7-10-12 ..... J A McCarthy	93
10	-0P0	ALLIED'S TEAM 25 J Josiah 8-10-11 ..... Karen Cook (7)	–
11	-003	WINTER LIGHTNING 39 (V) Mrs H Parrott 6-10-7 ..... D Leahy	91
12	-PP0	SILVER SHILLING 16 Mrs V Ward 8-10-0 ..... R Massey	–

7-2 Target Line, 5-1 Rowlandsons Gold, 6-1 Punchbag, 13-2 Winter Lightning, 7-1 Champagne Run, 8-1 George Buckingham, 10-1 Chiltern Hundreds, 12-1 others.

1.20 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,730: 2m 6f) (5)

1	-531	COUNTESS VERUSCHKA 8 (G,S) K Bailey 9-11-1 N Williamson	80
2	P-22	CARLINGFORD BELLE 32 J Needham 9-10-10 ..... A Maguire	76
3	-232	CHICHELL'S HURST 11 (S) Mrs P Sly 9-10-10 ..... R Marley	(5)
4	63U-	COPPER PAN 269P J Hubby 8-10-10 ..... D Walsh (5)	–
5	10FF	DISTANT LADY 8 (B,S) Mrs S Smith 9-10-10.. Richard Guest	–

5-4 Countess Veruschka, 9-4 Chichell's Hurst, 7-2 Distant Lady, 5-1 Carlingford Belle, 25-1 Copper Pan.

1.50 ASH NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£3,071: 2m) (7)

1		BUCKET OF GOLD N Gaselee 5-11-5 ..... M A Fitzgerald	–
2	P	CHACER'S IMP 65 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-5 W Humphreys	–
3	00	DEEP SONG 50 P Pritchard 5-11-5 ..... R Davis	–
4	00-	FIXTURESSECRETARY 275 D Nicholson 6-11-5 ..... A Maguire	–
5	/44-	SWEEBARRA BAY 240 G Ham 6-11-5 ..... P Niven	–
6	-065	HERESTHEDEAL 22 Mrs M McDaid 5-11-5 ..... J A McCarthy	(5)
7	00	JACOB'S WIFE 20 J Webber 5-11-0 ..... G McCourt	–

9-4 Fourmessenger, 7-2 Bucket Of Gold, 4-1 Herestheideal, 5-1 Chacer's Imp, 8-1 Seneghena Bay, 12-1 Jacob's Wife, 20-1 others.

2.20 BEECH HANDICAP CHASE (£4,694: 2m 110yd) (3)

1	-513	REPEAT THE DOSE 6 (CD,F,S,S) T Casey 10-12-0 J Osborne	(5)
2	2-23	MR FELIX 48 (D,F,S,S) R Champion 9-10-4 ..... B Powell	93
3	P14F	DUHALLOW LODGE 22 (CD,C,S) D Nicholson 8-10-0 ..... A Maguire	92

6-4 Mr Felix, 7-4 Repeat The Dose, 9-4 Duhallow Lodge.

2.50 CHESTNUT JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,268: 2m) (7)

1	1	KAITAK 9 (D,S) J Carr 11-3 ..... M Dwyer	97
2		BALANAK 65F D Gandolfo 10-10 ..... A Maguire	–
3	P	DOYVILLE 36 J Bridger 10-10 ..... D Morris	–
4		JOYS FIRST 71F N Callaghidge 10-10 ..... P Hide	–
5	35	MARLIND 11 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 10-10 ..... W Humphreys	(5)
6	UR	SIMPLY A SEDUEL 25 C Jackson 10-10 ..... N Williamson	–
7	P	CHILDREN'S CHOICE 11 P McBride 10-5 ..... N Mann	–

4-5 Kaitak, 5-2 Marlind, 4-1 Balanak, 10-1 Joys First, 20-1 Children's Choice, 25-1 Doyville, Simply A Sequel.

3.20 ELM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,496: 2m 6f) (6)

1	-122	KALANSKI 11 (S,S) C Egerton 9-12-0 ..... J Osborne	97
2	-U21	TORT 22 (C,S,S) P Dalton 11-11-11 ..... A P McCoy (3)	95
3	5F02	BOWL OF OATS 18 (B,CD,S) A Turnell 9-11-2 ..... S McNeill	(5)
4	1-31	PERCY SMOLLETT 16 (F,S,S) D Nicholson 7-10-0 A Maguire	98
5	2136	SUPPOSIM 9 (S,S) Mrs S Smith 7-10-0 ..... Richard Guest	95
6	5-3P	JOLLY JAUNT 20 (S) Miss D Baker 10-10-0 ..... N Williamson	92

7-4 Percy Smollett, 9-4 Tort, 5-2 Bowl Of Oats, 6-1 Kalanski, 7-1 Supposin, 20-1 Jolly Jaunt.

3.50 LEVY BOARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,005: 2m) (11)

1	P1-	AMAZING MAN 269P (S) Mrs M McCourt 6-11-7. G McCourt	–
2		FORTINA'S CONQUEST Miss H Knight 5-11-7 ..... Miss J Brackenbury (7)	–
3	3	JULYARA 4 J Edwards 6-11-7 ..... N Williamson	–
4		NIGHTS IMAGE T Caldwell 5-11-7 ..... Pat Caldwell	–
5	34-	PRINCE NASHA 268 K Cunningham-Brown 5-11-7 A Maguire	–
6		SHANNON LAD W Jarvis 5-11-7 ..... D Morris	–
7	-4	TENNESSEE TWIST 88 Mrs J Pitman 5-11-7 ..... J Jukes (7)	–
8	3-4	COXWELL QUICK STEP 32 Miss H Knight 6-11-2. J Osborne	–
9		A NEW FLAME R Guest 4-10-9 ..... Richard Guest	–
10		CHU-WAN-WAN C Smith 4-10-9 ..... Mr P Hanly (7)	–
11		NUNS LUCY J Pickering 4-10-4 ..... V Slattery	–

2-1 Julyara, 7-2 Tennessee Twist, 5-1 Amazing Man, 6-1 Coxwell Quick Step, 7-1 Shannon Lad, 10-1 Prince Nasha, 12-1 A New Flame, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs J Pitman, 12 winners from 49 runners, 24.5%; D Nicholson, 11 from 47, 23.4%; H Collingridge, 3 from 14, 21.4%; J Edwards, 5 from 25, 20.0%; P Dalton, 5 from 27, 18.5%; J Upson, 7 from 48, 14.5%; N Twiston-Davies, 8 from 57, 14.0%; T Casey, 7 from 58, 12.5%.

JOCKEYS: N-Mann, 3 winners from 15 rides, 20.0%; J Osborne, 8 from 56, 13.8%; G McCourt, 4 from 30, 13.3%; Richard Guest, 4 from 32, 12.5%; A Maguire, 6 from 51, 11.8%; B Powell, 7 from 61, 11.5%; P Hide, 3 from 28, 11.5%; N Williamson, 6 from 54, 11.1%.

Blinkered first time

SOUTHWELL: 12.00 Quiet Mission. 12.30 Speedy Snapper. 1.00 Charlies Dream. 2.00 Joint Prospect. 2.00 Dualflair Ridge. 3.30 Broughton's Pride.
UTTOXETER: 1.10 Kirkton Grey.
TOWCESTER: 12.50 Punchbag, Winter Lightning.

Fitzgerald eyes Ascot again

THE Malton trainer, Jimmy Fitzgerald, is weighing up a tilt at one of his favourite races, the Victor Chandler Chase. His three-strong entry for the £40,000-added race at Ascot tomorrow week consists of Sybillin, winner of the race two years ago, Uncle Ernie and Native Mission.

"At the moment we're looking at all three horses, though it's likely we will have only one or two runners," said Fitzgerald, who also won the race in 1990 with Meikleour.

Plans are likely to be finalised early next week, once the trainer has had the chance to assess the wellbeing of his charges. "We've been through a frosty period and haven't been able to go on the grass gallops. But it looks like we're coming through it now," Fitzgerald said.

The two-mile champion, Viking Flagship, who is due to carry 12 stone, is earmarked for the race and Native Mission (9st 8lb) would have to run from 10lb out of the handicap.

"It could be that Uncle Ernie (10st 10lb) is the best handicapped of my three," the trainer said.

Apart from the in-form Viking Flagship, two other top two-milers, Deep Sensation and Coulton, have also been confirmed as starters.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

12.00 Indian Serenade. 12.30 Greek Gold. 1.00 Roar On Tour. 1.30 Battle Colours. 2.00 La Residence. 2.30 Rotherfield Park. 3.00 Puffy. 3.30 Blowedifiknow.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

12.00 STAFFORDSHIRE MAIDEN HANDICAP (Div I: £2,537: 7f) (12 runners)

1	523-	INDIAN SERENADE 111 P Harris 4-9-10 ..... L Dettori	5
2	5/0-	CLEAR LOOK 11J Miss H Knight 5-9-8 ..... D Harrison	3
3	000-	DAVID BLUE 17 J Wiles 4-9-7 ..... J Williams	8
4	060-	CHARLOTTE PENNY 213 N Littmoden 4-9-3 TG McLaughlin	(5) 4
5	540-	VENTURE FOURTH 27 E Alston 6-9-3 ..... S Keniry (7)	10
6	000-	QUIET MISSION 10 (B) J Eyre 4-9-2 ..... A Clark	9
7	600-	KIYAS 22 B McMahi 4-9-1 ..... A Mackay	2
8	560-	MISS TIPSY 22 (B) W Haigh 4-8-12 ..... Dale Gibson	12
9	000-	GENESIS FOUR 51 (B) S Bowring 5-8-12 ..... S Webster	6
10	060-	CHARLESTHINA 17 M Johnston 4-8-10 ..... T Williams	11
11	000-	HARRY BROWNE 78 Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-7 ..... S D Williams	7
12	050-	TASSAGH BRIDGE 17 (B) R Ingram 5-7-12 ..... G Bardwell	1

2-1 Indian Serenade, 9-2 Clear Look, 6-1 Harry Browne, 7-1 David Blue, 8-1 Venture Fourth, 10-1 Charlesthina, 12-1 others.

12.30 YORKSHIRE SELLING STAKES (Div I: £2,259: 1m 3f) (9)

1	340-	GREEK GOLD 45 (CD,S) Mrs J Ramsden 8-9-2 ..... J Weaver	4
2	000-	POP TO STANS 37 (C,F,S) J Pearce 6-9-2 ..... G Bardwell	8
3	240-	TOP SHEL 76 (CD,S) K Burke 7-9-2 ..... G Carter	6
4	000-	TRAIL OF TEARS 83 W Haigh 5-9-2 ..... Dale Gibson	3
5	000-	WELL SUITED 8 B McMahi 5-9-2 ..... R Cochrane	2
6	006-	SPEEDY SNAPPER 226 (B) P Cundell 4-8-12 ..... J Williams	9
7	555-	COMTEC'S LEGEND 37 (CD,F,S) J Bottomley 5-8-11 L Dettori	7
8	060-	KUSH 146 J L Harris 4-8-7 ..... A Mackay	1
9	000-	OFF THE AIR 27 (V,C,S,S) I Campbell 4-8-7 ..... D Harrison	5

6-4 Top Shel, 3-1 Pop To Stans, 4-1 Greek Gold, 6-1 Comtec's Legend, 12-1 Off The Air, 14-1 Speedy Snapper, Well Suited, 16-1 others.

1.00 LINCOLNSHIRE AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (£3,053: 1m) (12)

1	03-5	QUEENS CONSUL 4 (CD,BF,F,G) B Rothwell 5-11-7 ..... Miss Alex McCabe (7)	12
2	000-	EDUCATED PET 10 (F,G,S) B Preece 8-11-3 ..... Miss L Boswell (7)	3
3	662-	NO SUBMISSION 22 (CD,C,S) D Chapman 9-11-2 ..... Miss R Clark (4)	8
4	006-	PERDITION 78 (D,F) K Burke 5-10-9 ..... Mrs E Burke (7)	6
5	650-	ROSY LYDGATE 79 S Nettlewell 4-10-0 Mrs D Nettlewell (4)	4
6	004-	LARN FORT 32J (V,C,F,S,S) C Fairhurst 5-9-12 ..... Mrs S Bosley (4)	2
7	122-	ROAR ON TOUR 10 (B,D,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-11 ..... M H Naughton (4)	5
8	180/	AZUBAH 37J (F) G Moore 8-9-10 ..... C Bonner	10
9	050-	CHARLIES DREAM 10 (V,D,G) K Burke 4-9-9 ..... T Cull	9
10	006-	KISSAVOS 23 (CD,F,G) C E Brittain 9-9-8 ..... Miss J Winter	1
11	40/	CHANTRY BELLINI 521 (B,G) Mrs S Austin 6-9-2 ..... Mrs D Wilkinson (7)	11
12	550-	WINAGINS 20J T Watson 4-9-0 ..... Mrs C Watson (7)	7

5-2 Roar On Tour, 3-1 Queens Consul, 7-2 No Submission, 8-1 Rosy Lydgate, 10-1 Azubah, 12-1 Perdition, Kissavos, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 13 winners from 45 runners, 28.9%; M John

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Reading place trust in Quinn and Gooding partnership


Quinn: partner

By Russell Kempson

READING, the Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, filled its managerial vacancy yesterday but created a potential team selection dilemma. Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding were appointed joint-player-managers to succeed Mark McGhee, who joined Leicester City in acrimonious circumstances last month, and face an expectant public for the first time in the FA Cup third-round tie against Oldham Athletic at Elm Park tomorrow.

Quinn and Gooding, both 35, have signed 18-month contracts and will appoint an experienced coach to run the youth team and provide first-team support, especially on match days, when the pair are likely to be playing. When McGhee left for Filbert Street, after originally agreeing to stay, he took with him Colin Lee, his assistant, and Mike Hickman, his youth coach.

However, picking the Reading side may prove awkward, particularly if either player-manager suffers a loss of form. Dare one suggest to the other, as they plot their pre-match strategy, that he should take a "rest" until the old sparkle returns? What if their opinions differ radically on the merits of a team-mate or specific formation? Initially, at least, harmony rules.

Quinn, the Northern Ireland forward, with 44 caps, said: "Mick and I want to go on playing as long as we can and still see ourselves as a very important part of the team, but we're not going to put ourselves on the team-sheet first if we're not playing well. If we're not doing it, we'll put other people in."

Reading lie sixth in the first division, just short of a play-off place, with Quinn and Gooding having led them to two wins and two draws in their five-match stint as joint-caretaker-managers. Then, the supporters were sympathetic to the cause after McGhee's sudden exit; now, they will demand a continuation of the success enjoyed by the club over the past two seasons.

John Madejski, the Reading chairman, described the partnership as his "dream ticket", but Alan Curbishley, 50 per cent of the managerial duo at Charlton Athletic, warned of the pitfalls ahead. "It's a good move for Jimmy and Mick, but it's important they work out exactly what each is going to do," he said. "They mustn't contradict themselves, especially with the players, and they mustn't be seen to be crossing swords. Above all, they must always present a united front, whatever happens."

In 3½ years under Curbishley and Steve Gritt, both 37, Charlton have entered the top six of the first division (or old second division) on 70 occasions.

They also reached the quarter-finals of the FA Cup last year, when they lost 3-1 against Manchester United at Old Trafford. However, frequent enforced sales of their best players have meant that promotion has eluded them and, this season, they are languishing in eighteenth place, three points from the relegation zone.

"When you're winning, the job almost does itself," Curbishley said. "When you are losing, it can be quite difficult. Steve and I have had a few disagreements this season, but a bit of give and take usually sorts it out. What Jimmy and Mick will find most different is the lifestyle. While the players are at home resting, they'll be out watching games, driving, getting stuck in traffic and not eating until 9pm. That's when they'll know what it's all about."

Millichip calls for unity in national game

By Rob Hughes, Football Correspondent

THE struggle for the soul, the purse strings and the power of football has begun. The new year has been ushered in with a letter from Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman of the Football Association, to the 90 members of the FA council that is both an olive branch to the wealthy FA Premier League chairmen, who are demanding more of a voice in the governing of their game, and, at the same time, a reminder to them all that the FA — and only the FA — is regarded by Fifa, the sport's world governing body, as the sole authority in this country.

"What everyone who cares about football must avoid, above all else, is disunity," Sir Bert wrote, although the 21-paragraph letter to the councillors has the hallmark of the hand of David Davies, the director of public affairs at the FA. It speaks of the "tarnished image of the sport we all care about passionately" through a series of unrelated events at the back end of 1994. It pledges Sir Bert's continuing commitment to deal severely with any case of wrongdoing, whatever its nature. It shows concern for the "weaker brethren" in the game, whom some of the wealthy would see go to the wall.

Of course, the FA has the duty — and the strength — of representing all of football in England, and, of course, the vast majority of that is played for the love of the game, administered for and by amateurs. Sir Bert's letter contends that it is a misapprehension to assume that the business acumen of those who tender the roots of the game is any less than those who wish to take governing power from them — Premier League club chairmen such as Sir John Hall, of Newcastle United, who insist that either they are granted more representation on the executive committee of the FA, or, within 1995, they break away. Equally, the FA chairman dismisses the thought that the FA had people within it who were reluctant to change.

"We must go further," Millichip concludes. "Our structures and procedures must be seen to reflect the age in which we live. There is a widespread demand within the game at the top level for a bigger say in decision-making and, in my opinion, it does have justification. The changing circumstances brought about by the development of the FA Premier League cannot and must not be ignored."

That is precisely what Sir John and others have been


Millichip: rallying cry

trying to say. Sir John, investing many millions of pounds in his vision for Newcastle United, could not believe that he has brought his ruthless but far-seeing business brain into a sport in which the leading clubs have only one representative on the 11-strong executive committee of the FA. How, he thundered, can clubs that generate three-quarters of the wealth of the game be administered to by regional councillors, by people from Oxford and Cambridge, by members from the Army, the Navy and even New Zealand?

Sir John is rich enough and influential enough to demand a say in the future of the game or to arouse what, in effect, would be anarchy from the leading chairmen. Whether he could co-ordinate those people, whether they would ever put their local, parish interests into the same pot of commitment, would be a novel, unique calling.

For example, while Sir John Hall is chairman of the Millennium Commission, the Premier League hopes that that fund will contribute towards the building of a new national stadium.

Indeed, as Sir Bert's missive went out yesterday, so three cities continued their propaganda campaigns that hope to entice the Premier League to invest around £50 million of new, apparently surplus, wealth in a national stadium on their territory.

There has been much speculation this week about the Premier League throwing its pile of money at a £100 million takeover of Wembley Stadium; it is not ready to do so yet, for, though the old stadium is again formulating new ideas on refurbishment and attractions to entice the support of the Premier League, Birmingham and Manchester are still hoping that the league that represents the top of the football pyramid will pay half or more of the cost of an entirely new arena.

The Premier League is as yet undecided where to put its money, but, even in this, the unity that Sir Bert requests is lost. Doug Ellis, the chairman of Aston Villa and a leading member of the FA, has said that Birmingham, his city, is the one true location for the national stadium.

However, at least the squabbling today appears to be about wealth. It is not long ago that Gianni Agnelli, the benefactor of Juventus, bemoaned: "If football is a business, it is a losing business." Not any more.

Home truths force Aylesbury's hand

Walter Gammie looks at the reasons a small club had to surrender a big cup advantage


Hercules, left, shows the determination that will make him a threat to Rangers tomorrow. Photograph: Brian Fox

A concrete wall was the barrier to Aylesbury United putting out the flags and holding the biggest match of their 98-year history at their early-model new stadium, which they simply call The Stadium.

Instead, 3,500 supporters will pass through the Chilterns tomorrow to follow the Diadora League side in its first appearance in the FA Cup third round at what Queens Park Rangers, their opponents, have loftily taken to calling the Rangers Stadium.

Surrendering home advantage was hard. It has served Aylesbury well in a decade of FA Cup adventures that has seen them reach the first round in nine out of the past ten seasons. The exception was last season, when defeat by Marlow in the fourth qualifying round sentenced Aylesbury to slog their way from the first qualifying round this year.

The club had been told that The Stadium (capacity logged in the *Non-League Football Annual* as 7,800), which held 6,000 when Bobby Robson's England team played there in 1988 and 4,895 when Aylesbury lost 1-0 to Northampton Town in a second-round replay in 1989-90, would be allowed a certificate for only 2,650.

FA CUP

Tony Graham, the secretary, who joined the club after it moved to its new premises in 1986, is philosophical as the capacity drops to the levels that provoked the club's move in the first place. "Things change," he said. "Not so long ago, every Football League ground had mesh fences; now, there are none."

The collapse of a wall at Runcorn's FA Cup tie against Hull City last season has now made the concrete perimeter fencing at non-league grounds a target for safety officers, but, as Graham explained, the standards are not uniformly applied.

"We spent a season in the Conference [1988-89] and obviously had our Conference grading then," Graham said. "The rules have changed and we had to apply for the Conference by the end of August. We had to meet their timescale and have the ground inspected by the end of October, which was when the police and fire services had their say.

"Our fire service uses guidelines that are more strict than those in force at Kingstonian. We played there in the last round and they were told they could take a crowd of up to 5,000, as they had against Brighton in the previous round. Their ground is the same size as ours; it was built by the same company.

"We were told that crush barriers in certain places would overcome the problem, but, until they were installed, we wouldn't be allowed to have people more than four deep. It hadn't been necessary when we played Northampton or the England XI and we've never had a problem.

"We simply didn't have enough time to plan any work, purchase, install or test barriers. With the limit set so low by the fire services, the police had little option but to recommend the match should be switched for fear of supporters turning up without tickets."

Not that anybody has been complaining. "We will easily be able to get our 3,500 in at Rangers and everybody is excited that they are going to play at a Premiership club," Graham said. Supplying the calming influence is the task of Steve Ketteridge, the manager, who has abundant experience from his professional days at Wimbledon, Crystal Palace and Leyton Orient and played in the Aylesbury side that beat Southend United before ducking out to Northampton in 1989.

Ketteridge returned as manager this season as Aylesbury sought to restore the stability that they enjoyed under the nine-year stewardship of Trevor Gould, who left to join his brother, Bobby, at Coventry City. Dave Sansom spent half a season as player-manager before Alan Davies, who had taken Slough to the Conference, was given the job last season, only for a mediocre twelfth place in the league to be further blackened by disastrous cup results.

"Steve has mixed youth with experience," Graham said. "We're sixth in the league with matches in hand, still in the FA Cup and still in the [FA] Trophy."

Among Ketteridge's successes this season has been Matty Hayward, 22 and a strapping centre half, but he will sit out the cup tie after the postponement of Aylesbury's match at St Albans on Monday meant that he lost his chance to serve the final match of a suspension.

> 'The police had little option but to recommend the match be switched'

Supporters will be reassured, though, by the sight of the redoubtable Cliff Hercules. Hercules has scored seven times in the cup this season, has been on target in Aylesbury's past 11 matches and has netted 278 goals in 543 matches over ten years. Comparisons with Les Ferdinand, the former Hayes centre forward, will be irresistible.

The management will take heart from a share of a gate that should settle their ground shortcomings for good. Yet, as Wycombe Wanderers, their fellow Buckinghamshire club, line up West Ham United in their sights today, it is instructive to recall that, in 1987, Aylesbury swept past Wycombe, still then based at Loakes Park, 2-0 in the first qualifying round. Wycombe's rise came with the move three years later to a ground built after the Taylor Report.

Graham, appropriately, gives the final word to the police. "One of them told me not so long ago that we built our ground three or four years too early," he said.

THE TIMES

Win the trip of a lifetime to the biggest party in history

Today is day eleven of *The Times* Millennium 2000, which offers readers the opportunity to spend New Year's Eve 1999 crossing the International Date Line to both Fiji and the Cook Islands to see in the new millennium twice. First prize is a 28 day world air cruise for two culminating in New Year 1999 in Fiji and the Cook Islands to join in the festivities. The trip takes in Dubai, Thailand, Singapore, Tucson, Washington and Sydney. It includes helicopter sightseeing over the Fiji Islands and hot-air ballooning over the Arizona desert, and would cost £64,000 to book in 1999.

A second prize of a ten day stay for two in Fiji and the Cook Islands worth up to £7,000 and a third prize of two tickets chosen from any of the millennium party venues available to readers are also on offer.

Should you be unsuccessful in the competition, you can still take part in the festivities by booking the Fiji and Cook Islands trip separately or taking advantage of our selection of deluxe party venues round the world.

The parties are the brainchild of The Millennial Foundation, a non profit-making charity which is organising fundraising parties to help specific local charities across the world. In St Petersburg, for instance, the money will help restore the Hermitage gallery and fund the Kirov Ballet.

You could, for example, celebrate the dawn of the new millennium in San Francisco, a city of hills, cable-cars set by the Pacific Ocean. The party in a skyscraper overlooking the Bay and your stay in the Georgian elegance of the Clift Hotel would cost £3,250 per person in 1999, but readers can secure their places now for £2,250 each. Commencing December 28, 1999, the cost includes air travel and hotel accommodation and your ticket to the New Year's Eve gala party.



TOKEN 11



Question 11
Where did Spain cede the state of California to the United States?

To enter the competition collect the 18 tokens and answer the 18 questions which are appearing between December 26 and Saturday January 14. Send the tokens and answers on a separate sheet of paper, stating in not more than 15 words why you would like to join in the celebrations, to: *The Times* Millennium 2000 Competition, 5 Britnons Court, London EC88 6NG. Closing date January 31, 1995. Normal *Times* competition rules apply.

Details of how to book the millennium gala parties, which appeared last week, will appear again tomorrow. Further information about the parties can be obtained by writing to: Millennium 2000 Ltd, Freepost GW 7623, Glasgow G3 7BR.

Family regime at an end

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

WANG JUNXIA, the best of China's world-beating athletes, confirmed yesterday that Ma Junren's squad of elite women distance runners had disbanded and accused the coach of driving them to quit.

"We simply could not take it any longer," Wang said of life under Ma's strict training regime. A Chinese newspaper, the *Beijing Youth Daily*, had reported on Wednesday that 16 of Ma's athletes had left his training centre in the northeastern city of Dalian, although some officials denied that a rift had occured.

"We had absolutely no freedom," Wang, speaking from Shenyang, where the remnants of the group are setting up an independent training base, said. "We were all on the brink of going crazy. The pressure was too intense. We could not take it. The Ma Family Army has been disbanded and will never be brought back together."

Under Ma, Wang, 21, set world records at 3,000 and 10,000 metres, won the 10,000 metres at the world championships in Stuttgart and became World Cup marathon champion. All these achievements came in a three-month spell during 1993 and followed a training mileage which added up to a marathon a day.

Her successes, and the various world titles and records acquired by other members of Ma's group, brought financial rewards, and the coach's distribution of these has upset the athletes. The *Liberation Daily* newspaper said recently that Ma owned the three Mercedes cars won by his athletes for their victories in Stuttgart and had spent seven million yuan (£530,000) on his training centre in Liaoning out of his athletes' winnings of ten million yuan. Wang was said to have received only 170,000 yuan.

Wang said yesterday that there were "too many reasons" for the split. She aded that one influential factor was Ma's hoarding of his runners' cash and prizes, including the cars.

Obree's career on hold

By Peter Bryan

GRAEME OBREE, who was dismissed from the professional cycling team put together by Le Groupement, the French mail order company, three days after the start of a two-year contract, broke his silence yesterday by declaring that he needed to take a three-month break from the sport.

"I was too ill to attend the team's get-together in France and had no success when I tried to contact its officials on January 1," he said, speaking from his from his home in Irvine.

"When I finally managed to speak to someone, I was told that a letter was in the post, but it has still to arrive.

"Now I know that I have been fired. Will I fight that decision? What's the point? If the sponsors are no longer keen on me, it means that I shall have to look to other things — but not until my health has improved."

Obree, British track champion at 4,000 metres, road time-trial record-holder at ten and 60 miles and 1993 world pursuit champion, who has twice broken the world one-hour record, would not identify his medical condition. "I have seen my doctor," he said. "The ailment is neither terminal nor embarrassing, but I will not say anything about it except that it will probably take me two or three months to make a recovery.

"It was my wife, Anne, who is a nurse, who insisted that I was not well enough to travel to France. I had severe headaches towards the end of December and at the end of the month was energy-less and unable to move."

Obree believes that Le Groupement's interest in him started when he held the world one-hour record last year. But that interest could have waned when first Miguel Indurain, a triple Tour de France winner, and then Tony Rominger, of Switzerland, bettered his distance.

"I'm not devastated by Le Groupement's decision," Obree added. "Once I am better, I can decide which route I want to take in my career."

John Woodcock hails a great Australian opening pair

Partners in famous company

THE third Test match, at Sydney, a lovely game of cricket despite the frustrations, will have restored England's faith in themselves and the fondest hopes of their supporters. And by supporters I do not mean the rabble, 40 or 50-strong, that is following them round, daubed and draped in red, white and blue, and spoiling the enjoyment of thousands of others by their drunken and vulgar behaviour.

There was a moment yesterday afternoon, before the match flared into life for the last time, when the players were doing little more than going through the motions. Both captains seemed to have given up all idea of winning. Taylor, who was still at the crease, had abandoned the chase; Atherton was setting fields for the new ball with no point to them.

Although conditions, by then, were ideal for moving the new ball about, it seemed not to have occured to Atherton that, even if victory were inconceivable, the situation had possibilities. I wrote before this match that England's lo[illegible] of confidence, brought about by their inability to play Shane Warne, was undermining their whole game at the same time as uplifting Australia's. But much has happened here to change that.

An opening partnership of the highest class for Australia, between Taylor and Slater, confirmed the inadequacy of England's bowling when the sun is out and the pitch as good as this one; but there were, at the same time, plenty of pluses, and Atherton was introduced, at the last, to a new dimension of captaincy.

It is quite a match when the Waugh brothers, both averaging the best part of 60 in Tests against England, make only 33 runs between them in four innings. Australia's opening pair, Taylor and Slater, were, however, immensely impressive. Four years ago, Sir Donald Bradman held that Taylor and Geoff Marsh were arguably the best opening pair Australia had ever had. That placed them ahead of any number of tremendous couples — Trumper and Duff, Woodfull and Ponsford, Barnes and Morris, and Simpson and Lawry to name some of them — but nobody is better qualified to judge these things than the incomparable Don. I am inclined to think that, in Slater, Taylor has now found an even better partner.

The pairing of left-handed and right-handed opening batsmen is never to the liking of bowlers, though of the best English openers in remotely modern times, only John Edrich has been left-handed. Of the present crop, the only left-hander who looks as though he might be good enough is Darren Bicknell. Simpson, Lawry, Arthur Morris and Edrich were all present yesterday, admiring Taylor's wonderfully solid innings.

On a hot, cloudless and uninterrupted day, Australia could have been expected to score the 310 they still needed, with all their wickets intact, with something to spare. But it was not cloudless. At lunch, after an overcast morning in which Tufnell bowled his leg theory to stop Australia getting away, and Atherton papered over the weaknesses in the field quite shrewdly, and Taylor and Slater stayed together, Australia were still favourites, if less clearly so. Nobody could possibly have foreseen what was in store.

The last-day crowd of 25,766 was the best at Sydney since a Packer spokesman wrote Test cricket's obituary in the late 1970s — the best, in fact, for 32 years. Thanks more than anything to Warne, the game in Australia prospers. Slater is a rising star, Mark Waugh a genius, McDermott a talented boor. In England, Fleming would be a useful county bowler; here, he is in a good Test side. Australia have their way as we have ours, and this match showed that there is life in the old dog yet.



Slater exudes sheer enjoyment as he dispatches the ball to the boundary during his innings of 103

Salisbury follows Warne's example

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WHERE Shane Warne and Anil Kumble have led, winning Test matches with their attack-minded leg-spin bowling, Ian Salisbury intends to follow. His Test career, which spans three years, may have been modest so far — he has made relatively little impact in his six matches — but, in that time, both Warne, of Australia, and Kumble, of India, have made their marks and shown Salisbury the way ahead.

Yesterday, in Bombay, the Sussex leg-break bowler took at least one step forward, figures of six for 48 with four wickets in 18 balls setting up England A for victory in the opening match of their tour of India. The India Youth XI had no answer to Salisbury's turn, bounce and control from over and — a new development in his game — round the wicket.

Bowled out for 199, the Indian youngsters will begin the final day at 21 for one in their second innings, chasing 289 to win. England A made 204 in their second innings yesterday, with some purposeful batting designed, initially, to set up an overnight declaration.

Salisbury was made to wait for his first success by some stout resistance from the Indian side's sixth-wicket pair of Samir Dighe and Obed Kamal. Resuming on 152 for five, they took their stand to 63 before Richard Stemp, the Yorkshire slow left-armer, turned one sharply to have Dighe caught by Wells at slip for 26. Then, in the next over, Salisbury had Kamal caught at deep mid-on as he skied an attempted big hit.

Iqbal Siddiqui was taken off bat and pad at silly point for nought and Paras Mhambrey was bowled around his legs as Salisbury switched back to an over-the-wicket attack.

Wells hit a powerful 36 from 44 balls as his team batted positively throughout the afternoon in an effort to build a winning lead, but, with the pitch still offering significant turn, wickets were also lost in the run charge. Nick Knight and Jason Gallian, the openers, put on 48 but both fell in their twenties.

Mark Ramprakash, who played some memorable strokes in reaching 16, then edged Balaji Rao, the leg spinner, to slip. Wells and David Hemp, who both hit the ball sweetly, added 57 in only 11 overs for the fourth wicket, but Rao dismissed them both in successive overs, having Wells caught at the wicket and Hemp, who made 24, to a fine one-handed caught-and-bowled effort above his head. After Dominic Cork was out leg-before for nought in the final over before tea, Mhambrey, the seamer, polished off the tail to finish with three for 26.

SCOREBOARD FROM BOMBAY

ENGLAND A: First Innings 283 (D G Cork 69, M R Ramprakash 69).

Second Innings

N V Knight b Vij	23
J E R Gallian c Muzumdar b Rao	25
M R Ramprakash c Muzumdar b Rao	16
*A P Wells c Dighe b Rao	36
D L Hemp c and b Rao	24
P N Weekes lbw b Mhambrey	25
D G Cork lbw b Vij	0
†P A Nixon lbw b Rao	23
G Chapple lbw b Mhambrey	5
I D K Salisbury not out	8
R D Stemp b Mhambrey	7
Extras (b 1, lb 5, w 1, nb 5)	12
Total	204

FALL: 1-48, 2-85, 3-72, 4-129, 5-131, 6-132, 7-177, 8-187, 9-190.

BOWLING: Mhambrey 11.2-5-26-3; Siddiqui 4-0-24-0; Vij 18-4-75-2; Rao 18-4-56-5; Kamal 6-1-17-0

INDIA YOUTH XI: First Innings

Z Bharucha c and b Cork	5
J Singh c Ramprakash b Weekes	12
A Muzumdar c Wells b Salisbury	68
V V Laxman lbw b Stemp	10
S Sarath c Knight b Salisbury	17
S Dighe c Wells b Stemp	26
O Kamal c Stemp b Salisbury	36
P Mhambrey b Salisbury	1
I Siddiqui c Knight b Salisbury	0
B V Vij c Ramprakash b Salisbury	9
B Rao not out	6
Extras (b 1, lb 4, nb 4)	9
Total	199

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-42, 3-75, 4-119, 5-120, 6-183, 7-183, 8-183, 9-192.

BOWLING: Cork 6-1-23-1; Chapple 14-6-23-0; Stemp 26-6-49-2, Weekes 21-3-51-1; Salisbury 18.1-6-48-6.

Second Innings

Z Bharucha lbw b Chapple	1
J Singh not out	13
A Muzumdar not out	7
Total (1 wkt)	21

FALL OF WICKET: 1-9

BOWLING: Cork 3-1-11-0, Chapple 4-2-9-1; Stemp 2-1-1-0

Umpires: A Jayaprakash and J Singh.

Patient Young leading uphill struggle

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FANIE DE VILLIERS and Brian McMillan each took two wickets as South Africa pushed New Zealand into a tight corner yesterday, the fourth day of the third Test in Cape Town. New Zealand go into the final day at Newlands at 121 for four, still needing 31 to avoid an innings defeat. A win for South Africa would give them the series 2-1.

De Villiers and McMillan struck their important blows after Dave Richardson, the South Africa wicketkeeper, had completed a maiden Test century during the morning session to lift South Africa's total to 440 and give them a lead of 152. Richardson, 70 not out overnight, completed his hundred from 202 balls with six fours.

Richardson, the only man to have played in all 20 Tests since South Africa's return to the international arena, earned praise from Geoff Howarth, the New Zealand coach. "I rate him one of South Africa's best batsmen," Howarth said. "He has got a good head on his shoulders."

Richardson's eighth-wicket partnership with Clive Eksteen ended at 85 when Eksteen was bowled behind his legs by Matthew Hart, the left-arm spinner, for a dogged 22 from 146 balls. Richardson was last out for 109, which included 53 singles, when he top-edged a gentle full toss from Simon Doull, giving Martin Crowe an easy catch at slip.

De Villiers made an early breakthrough when New Zealand batted again, trapping Darrin Murray leg-before for three. He later persuaded Adam Parore, who had made 34, to hook a bouncer straight to Eksteen on the boundary at fine leg.

Crowe gloved a lifter from McMillan to Richardson before Ken Rutherford shouldered arms to an inswinger and was given out leg-before by Barry Lambson, the South African umpire. Rutherford's unhappy reaction, clearly seen on television, could find him in hot water with Peter Burge, the match referee.

Bryan Young, who posted the third-slowest Test half-century during the second Test, again dug his heels in. He has batted for more than four hours for his unbeaten 42 and much will depend on him.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 288 (K R Rutherford 56, S P Fleming 79; S D Jack 4-68, B M McMillan 4-65)

Second Innings

B A Young not out	42
D J Murray lbw b de Villiers	3
†A C Parore c Eksteen b de Villiers	34
M D Crowe c Richardson b McMillan	5
*K R Rutherford lbw b McMillan	26
S A Thomson not out	1
Extras (lb 4, w 1, nb 5)	10
Total (4 wkts)	121

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-19, 2-63, 3-73, 4-115

BOWLING: de Villiers 17-7-35-2; Jack 10-2-26-0, McMillan 16-6-29-2; Cronje 7-3-15-0; Eksteen 14-9-9-0

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

G Kirsten b Thomson	64
P J R Steyn lbw Thomson	38
J B Commins c Rutherford b Hart	27
D J Cullinan c Young b Thomson	5
*W J Cronje c Pringle b Hart	112
J N Rhodes b Doull	18
B M McMillan lbw b Pringle	18
†D J Richardson c Crowe b Doull	109
C E Eksteen b Hart	22
S D Jack c Murray b Morrison	7
P S de Villiers not out	1
Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 8, b 7)	19
Total	440

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-106, 2-119, 3-125, 4-161, 5-225, 6-271, 7-325, 8-410, 9-429

BOWLING: Morrison 34-7-100-1, Doull 34.2-12-55-2; Pringle 28-5-68-1; Hart 54-8-141-3, Thomson 31-7-85-3.

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and B T Lambson (South Africa)

SPORT IN BRIEF

Injuries improve Chen's chances

CHEN XINHUA, of England, was yesterday given an outstanding chance of winning the English Open table tennis title when he was moved up to second seed after injuries to Kong Linghui and Jorgen Persson caused the men's singles to be redrawn (Richard Eaton writes).

The absences of Kong, the Asian champion from China, and Persson, the former world champion from Sweden, are serious blows to a tournament which had hoped to provide the only significant showdown between players from the world's two leading nations before the world championships in May. Chen has not been in his best form lately, but is very much a player for the big occasion and was expected to beat Yu Shentong, of China, in the 1989 final of this event in Manchester before having to withdraw because of a back injury. The top seed is Peter Karlsson, of Sweden.

Hetherington's task

RUGBY LEAGUE: Gary Hetherington, of Sheffield Eagles, will coach the Great Britain squad in the Coca-Cola world sevens tournament in Australia from February 3 to 5. Hetherington, the assistant to Ellery Hanley, the Great Britain coach, will select the team with Hanley that will meet three Australian club sides — St George, North Sydney and Penrith — in their group two matches at Sydney football stadium on February 4.

☐ Jamie Bloem, the Doncaster full back, will have his appeal against a two-year drugs ban heard by the Rugby Football League on January 12.

Saby closes on leader

MOTOR RALLYING: Bruno Saby, of France, driving a Mitsubishi, closed on the leader of the Dakar rally, Ari Vatanen, yesterday as the Finnish driver suffered two punctures in quick succession on the fifth leg of the two-week race. Saby finished the desert route through Morocco to Es Smara almost eight minutes faster than the quickest Citroen, driven by Timo Salonen, also of Finland.

Putter serves Lane well

GOLF: Barry Lane, the Ryder Cup player, scored birdies on seven of the last 11 holes to earn a share of the first-round lead in the Bell's Cup at George, South Africa, yesterday. The Englishman, 34, who had not played competitively since November, shot an inward 31 for a 66, six under par. Mike Board and Pat Horgan, of the United States, also putted well on the fast greens to share the lead.

Pilots show promise

GLIDING: The Great Britain team fielded three of its seven pilots yesterday on the third day's official practice for the world championships, which start at the weekend in New Zealand. Justin Wills finished first over the 15-metre class 475-kilometre task, with Chris Garton two minutes behind him in third place. Martyn Wells's fast Standard class 397-kilometre flight was also encouraging.

Holyfield to return



BOXING: Evander Holyfield, right, the former world heavyweight champion from the United States, will meet Corrie Sanders, of South Africa, in April, 12 months after losing his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles on points over 12 rounds to Michael Moorer. A specific date and place for the contest with Sanders has not yet been chosen.

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Time to outlaw shoulder padding



GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

Since nothing has been heard recently, an update is needed on the comments passed in this column about the use of shoulder padding on the recent tour of Wales, Scotland and Ireland by the South Africans.

Since then, some of the young men of Oxford University have looked broader than usual, too. Whatever they may get up to in rugby league, this is a matter of great moment for the future of rugby union. It would augur a vast change in attitude if it became acceptable.

In their first match, against Cardiff, it was quite clear that the touring South Africans were wearing protective clothing of one sort or another beneath their jerseys. This is not permissible.

The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) approached the South African management after that game and, as a result, there was no wholesale use of shoulder padding in the next two games, against Wales A and Llanelli. However, the whole team appeared to wear them against Neath in the next match.

The law states: "Shoulder pads of the 'harness' type must not be worn, nor braces or supports including rigid reinforced material. The wearing of thin pads of cotton wool, sponge, rubber and similar soft materials may be permitted, provided they are attached to the body or sewn on to the jersey."

A team so inclined can drive a coach and horses through this law. Or, as the South Africans did to begin with, ignore it altogether. Their players wore an undergarment which was a black vest with shoulder padding. This was illegal under the wording of the law.

However, with a bit of sticky tape here and there, the aforesaid garment could be said to be "attached" to the body. The South Africans did not pursue this route, but chose another equally cynical step in the wrong direction. Expediency was the motivation, not sporting obligation.

As with so much else in rugby, like the complicated playing laws or the amount of physical aggression that is acceptable, the sport has survived only on everyone entering into "the spirit of the game". But, in the harsh reality of rugby commerce and the desperate need for national prestige, this spirit hardly counts for much any more.

What the South Africans did next is another piece of evidence in the erosion of standards.

After consultation with the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), a meeting was held between the WRU, the South Africans' tour management and Louis Luyt, their president.

The touring side asked whether what it was doing was illegal. The South Africans were told that it was, and went away fully acquainted with the regulation. In order to comply with the law, but to ignore the spirit, they chose not to forgo the padding but rather to sew the undergarment into the jersey.

In the eye of this kerfuffle has been Ken Rowlands, the referee development director for the WRU. "By the summer of 1994, it was apparent that, in southern hemisphere matches, shoulder padding had been introduced on a wide scale," Rowlands said.

"The South Africans, when they came over here, said that they were merely following what they had seen elsewhere. The point of the matter is that this gear is used for aggressive not defensive purposes. The whole concept of rugby football is that you come into contact with your opponents only as hard as they can come into contact with you. Unless it is universally adopted, padding gives an unfair advantage to one side. It is a worrying trend."

At the beginning of last month, Rowlands attended the southern hemisphere conference for referees, coaches and those responsible for interpreting and implementing the laws.

"I was asked on behalf of the WRU to deliver a paper on this issue," Rowlands continued. "The law is not clear. If it says, for instance, that the wearing of 'thin' pads may be permitted, how thick is thin? And who is to define it?

"After I had delivered the report, there was unanimous agreement that rugby should not go down this path — no padding and no headgear of a hard material. The recommendations will go before the IRFB. If it is accepted, someone will have to sit down and bring forward a clear definition which outlaws such extra kit."

Rowe struggles to finish after storm

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

ISABELLE AUTISSIER, of France, may be relaxing on land after her rescue from the Southern Ocean storm that left her drifting 1,000 miles south of Australia last week, but other yachtsmen in the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race are still struggling to recover.

Nigel Rowe, one of the British competitors, enjoyed a comparatively quick pit-stop in Hobart after replacing broken self-steering equipment on his yacht, Sky Catcher, but Arnet Taylor, of the United States, who limped into the same Tasmanian port after sailing more than 600 miles without a rudder, expects repair work to his yacht, Thursday's Child, to take four or five days.

Yesterday, Rowe, speaking via a satellite phone as he re-crossed the Bass Strait towards Sydney, said: "Compared to Arnet, my problems were very minor. He has done a remarkable job getting into port, steering his boat by dragging all manner of ropes, chain and even a bucket behind."

Recalling the storm that knocked out his own rudder, Rowe said: "The seas were just phenomenal. The storm blew for a week and the winds, which topped 74 knots, were rarely below 50. It was quite frightening. The waves were certainly higher than my mast and I felt dwarfed and quite insignificant. It was a two-day nightmare and the memory will be with me always."

Taylor, who battened down his boat and left her to fend for herself while he stayed below deck, said: "When it got really windy, I turned off the wind instruments so I couldn't see how hard it was blowing."

Chay Blyth yesterday announced the names of the first two crewmembers recruited to compete in the BT Global Challenge next year aboard a boat sponsored by the Time & Tide Trust for people who have overcome a physical or sensory disability.

Stuart Boreham, 28, a computer expert who works for Barclays Bank, suffers from cerebral palsy, which has left him disabled in his lower limbs. The second recruit is Paul Hebblethwaite, who suffers profound deafness. James Hatfield, the hole-in-the-heart circumnavigator and a former yachtsman of the year, hopes to skipper the yacht.

Veteran golfer chalks up 46th appearance in President's Putter

Driven on by record and need to compete



John Hopkins discovers what makes a septuagenarian forgo the fireside on a bitterly cold day

What drives a man of 73 to leave his home and hearth on a bitter winter morning to play golf against men half his age and half his handicap? What drives the same man to do it year after year, wearing only one sweater, with a hole under one armpit, and one sleeve rolled up regardless of the cold?

The aim was to find out as I hoisted his slim bag over my shoulder and began caddying for Peter Gracey, who claims a record of 46 appearances in the President's Putter.

Gracey is an institution at the Putter, which is itself an institution. He is admired not only because he has been married three times (he says that Andrea, his latest wife, could dance up a wall) but because he epitomises a type of guts and self-denial that those born since the Second World War will be unfamiliar with.

"Gracey always plays in shirtsleeves," the starter, a man wrapped up in a flat cap, scarf, corduroy trousers and a sheepskin jacket, said on the first tee of Rye's Old Course. "He's the same, winter and summer. And he always carries his clubs."

Before every shot, a ritual was enacted, one as serious as the taking of Communion. Gracey would arrive at his ball, target his brown leather gloves and hand them over, taking care not to drop the hand-warmers inside. In return, he would be given the club of his choice. There is no discussion, no practice swing, no wasted time.

"Thank you," he said as he handed over his gloves. "Thank you," he said as he received his club. "Thank you," he said as he returned his club to his caddie. "Oh, bugger," he said when he hit a bad shot.

An arthritic hip limits his movement and his backswing is so flat that the club-head threatens to crack his right ankle. But he strikes the ball with the authority of a man who once played to a handicap of one. And his failing vision means he still hits it out of sight.

No sane person would have played golf yesterday morning. A wind of Siberian coldness blew across the course, so strong it was hard to stand still on the exposed plateaus of the 4th and 5th tees, so cold indeed that even Gracey later donned a windcheater.

"The coldest I have been in a Putter was in 1963," Gracey said. "We had to dive back into our gloves after each shot otherwise we'd have contracted frostbite."

At this moment, the snow was blowing horizontally. Gracey's hands were shaking so much he could hardly hold his old wooden-shafted blade putter. And he was four down to Will Bailhache, a lawyer from the Royal Jersey Golf Club. "Oh God," Gracey whimpered. "I can't wait to get back in."

The question had been asked as he sheltered beneath the 5th tee. At that moment, he looked as miserable as sin. His thin fair hair and his brown open face were being whipped by the wind which was causing tears to well up in his eyes. Why, then, did he do it?

"Because I am very competitive," he replied. "The only time I am serious is when I am playing golf. It's got to be a world's record hasn't it? Arnold Palmer played 35 successive times in the US Open or somthing like that, but that's slightly different."

A follow-up question was being asked when Gracey interrupted suddenly. "No, never," he said firmly. "I don't know what the question is, but the answer is 'no.'"

One rival threatens Gracey's exalted status as the man who has competed in the most Putters. "Philcox is my enemy," Gracey said. "He is three years younger than I am and has played in three fewer Putters. I know I've got him though. Last year, he came up to me and asked when I was going to stop? I said, 'Thank you for asking, Nigel, but I am going to go on forever. I am very fit.'"

He is not 82, however, as *The Times* said yesterday. "That caused great laughter at the breakfast table," Gracey said. "I was born in 1921, not 1912, so I'm 73."

The Times could not help stave off defeat for Gracey. Bailhache beat him 5 and 4. Gracey took off a glove, shook hands and limped back to the clubhouse. Soon he would warm up and have a drink in his hand and this would be followed by lunch and a glass of port. Friends would come round for drinks before dinner and then he could look forward to next year, to his 47th appearance in the Putter and, who knows, perhaps to a new sweater.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



A windswept Gracey, 73 last month, battles against the elements during his second-round defeat at Rye yesterday

RESULTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PUTTER

FIRST ROUND: S R Seman (O Merton) bt P M Green (C Emmanuel) 1 hole; J L Hampel (O St Anne's) bt M F Attenborough (O Trinity) 3 and 2; J N Davie (O Balliol) bt A J Murley (C St Catherine's) 3 and 2; J B L Webster (C Caius) bt N J Burke (O Lady Margaret Hall) 3 and 2; D L Mason (O Jesus) bt C L A Edington (O Pembroke) 2 and 1; A W Riley (C Caius) bt D D Shaw (O Mansfield) 1 hole; J J N Caplan (C Magdalene) bt B O Streather (O St Edmund Hall) 2 and 1; R O Kelly (C Corpus Christi) w o; J D S Fricker (O Balliol) bt J N Littlewood (O New College) 7 and 6; S F Brown (C Trinity) w o, P Dawson (C Corpus Christi) bt P M Froggatt (C Clare) 2 and 1; A O Chilvers (O St Benet's Hall) bt J C Hafter (O Magdalen) 3 and 2; W J D Moberley (C Sidney Sussex) w o; A J Murray (C Jesus) bt J Chilana (C Queens') 2 and 1; D J Youngman (O Brasenose) bt J R Gillum (C King's) 7 and 6; D J Warden (C Fitzwilliam) bt J B Borrett (C Queens') 5 and 4.

SECOND ROUND: C C Travers (C Jesus) bt M C Grint (O Brasenose) 1 hole; R F H Petch (O Magdalen) bt R J P Youngman (O Trinity) 2 and 1; D W McClean (O Trinity) bt D H Darrow (O Trinity) 7 and 6, W P Cooper (C Clare) bt R C P Seddon (O Oriel) 19th hole, R W Evans (C Wolfson) bt G Huddy (O Selwyn) 4 and 3; M Yates (O St Catherine's) bt A de C Aldrich-Blake (C Pembroke) 5 and 4; K G Benz (O St Anne's) bt A O Ahiquist (C Christ's) 6 and 5; W J Bailhache (O Merton) bt P D K Gracey (O Brasenose) 5 and 4; F J Scarfield (O St Catherine's) bt J S R Harper (C Selwyn) at 19th; T J Hanson (C St John's) bt R P Lawson (O Keble) 1 hole; K H A Irwin (C Emmanuel) bt J R Sanders (O Brasenose) 4 and 3; M S P Benka (O Lady Margaret Hall) bt R W Devlin (O Wadham) 6 and 5; M R Uzielli (C Pembroke) bt A D Swanston (C Pembroke) 2 and 1, B H G Chapman (C Clare) bt Sir Michael Willard (C Pembroke) 5 and 4.

P J R Bathurst (C Magdalene) bt A J Burnet (O St. Hugh's) 1 hole; M W M R MacPhee (O Oriel) bt D E Rodway (O Exeter) 2 and 1; R D H Hall (C Magdalene) bt E B Lynch (C Magdalene) 7 and 6; P J Barry (O Exeter) bt G W E Milligan (C Churchill) 5 and 4, I M Henderson (O Pembroke) bt J T L Watson (C Trinity Hall) 19th; S C K Twigden (C Selwyn) bt N R M Pitcox (O New College) 1 hole, M R A Cox (C Caius) bt J E B Stobbs (C St. John's) 4 and 3, N Peban (O Queen's) bt M O Ebert (C Fitzwilliam) 2 and 1; R J Bosan (O Christ Church) bt A Orr Dens (O University) 8 and 7; R D Maret (O St Anne's) bt T F Sharp (O Corpus Christi) 3 and 2; S R Seman (O Merton) bt J L Hampel (O St. Anne's) 2 and 1; J B L Webster (C Caius) bt J N Davie (O Balliol) 3 and 2; D L Mason (O Jesus) bt A W Riley (C Caius) 4 and 3; J J N Caplan (C Magdalene) bt R O Kelly (C Corpus Christi) 5 and 4; J D S Fricker (O Balliol) bt S F Brown (C Trinity) 6 and 5; P Dawson (C Corpus Christi) bt A O Chilvers (O St Benet's Hall) 3 and 2; A J Murray (C Jesus) bt W J D Moberley (C Sidney Sussex) 6 and 5, D J Warden (C Fitzwilliam) bt D J Youngman (O Brasenose) 1 hole; W H P Jackson (O St. Peter's) bt P L Osborn (O Trinity Hall) 2 and 1; D J Moody (C Jesus) bt J H Palmer (C St. John's) 19th; R A Sanders (O Merton) bt T E Tew (O Wolfson) 1 up.

R F Palmes (C St. John's) bt D D S Corner (O Lincoln) 3 and 2; E R Dexter (C Jesus) bt D L Rendall (O Oriel) 5 and 4; D I Wilson (C Magdalene) bt W H D Moore (C Darwin) 4 and 3; M P J Bonney (C St Catherine's) bt C J Amber (C Queens') 7 and 6; D E F Simons (O Corpus Christi) bt J Hudson (C Christ Church) 2 and 1; R J G Hurst (O Christ Church) bt A R Powell (C Corpus Christi) 1 hole, P H Weller (O St John's) bt J B Tanner (C Peterhouse) 2 and 1, W H Barclay (C St John's) bt J R E Kent (O Brasenose) 2 and 1; G M Langford (O Pembroke) bt J Whitmore (C Clare) 3 and 2; A G M Goodrich (C Queens') bt C G White (O Exeter) 4 and 3; S D Ellis (C Pembroke) bt K Frearson (O Christ Church) 1 hole; S J Anthony (C Queens') bt S R Ashworth (O Hereford) 1 up; P J Hill (O Exeter) bt N H F Copestick (O Queen's) 3 and 2; H M J Richie (O Christ Church) bt G R Hughes (C Caius) 4 and 3; O J Dale (C Trinity Hall) bt N A Theyer (C Peterhouse) 1 hole; T R Grew (C Sidney Sussex) bt J M Peel (O Worcester) 5 and 4; A G Edmond (C Trinity) bt G J Collingham (C Emmanuel) 1 hole; J M T Warman (C Selwyn) bt D C Maecher (C Fitzwilliam) 5 and 4; A P Stracey (C Fitzwilliam) bt T G Elridge (O St Catherine's) 1 up; A L Woolnough (O Wadham) bt A H Catchpole (O University) 9 and 8; J E Behrend (O Corpus Christi) bt P J R Webb (O Trinity Hall) 2 and 1; R J H Randall (C St John's) bt M J Williams (C Jesus) 5 and 4.

P J Hogg (C St Catharine's) bt D C Taylor (C Selwyn) 3 and 2; P J R Souster (O Queen's) bt N B Peplow (C Jesus) 3 and 2, B R Payne (O St Hugh's) bt W J Uzzell (O Trinity) 1 up; R F D Guest-Cornell (O Keble) bt F R McCaig (C Jesus) 9 and 8; S A Sharpe (C Fitzwilliam) bt P B Many (C Downing) 3 and 2; C J Wright (C Jesus) bt P R Pentecost (C Pembroke) 1 hole.

Daly relaunches career

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN DALY was the centre of attention when he returned after a "voluntary" four-month absence to contest the opening event of the US PGA Tour's season, the Mercedes Championship, in Carlsbad, California yesterday.

Daly, 28, has not played since being involved in a scuffle with another player's father after the final round at the World Series of Golf in Akron, Ohio, in August, five months after completing a four-month suspension.

Daly, the former US PGA champion, speaking at the La Costa course yesterday, said: "I've made a new year's resolution to forget about the past. That's what I want to do in 1995. You live and learn. It's taken me a lot longer to grow up than a lot of people."

Daly, whose booming drives and down-to-earth personality have made him a favourite of the galleries, admits he let himself down last year. When he returned in March, he vowed to give 100 per cent on every shot, but it was not long before he appeared to be giving less than maximum effort.

"It goes back to playing some tournaments I didn't want to be at," he said. "I've always been a player that, if I didn't have a chance to win the tournament, I didn't want to be out there. That's something I have to change. I've got to realise that, whether I'm shooting ten over or ten under, there are people who've come a long way to see me play and I can't hit back-handed putts and stuff like that."

Daly, a former alcoholic who is now in his third year of abstinence, has made similar vows before, only to let his impetuosity and impatience get the better of him.

Greg Norman, twice the Open champion, believes Daly may have turned the corner.

"I think he understands his position in the game," Norman said. "Thousands of kids look up to him. He's a role model and I think he finally understands that."

Drysdale Cup regained

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

TWO English players will contest the under-19 final in the Commercial Union British junior squash championship at Lambs Club, London, today when the internationally coveted Drysdale Cup will return to home possession.

In the semi-finals yesterday, Chris Tomlinson, of Kent, defeated John Dale, the unexpectedly successful ninth seed from Northumbria, 9-3, 9-3, 9-4, while Iain Higgins, from Essex, wore down Markus Koppitz, of Germany, 9-4, 10-8, 9-0. The anticipated finalist, Ahmed Barada, the world junior champion from Egypt, was forced out by a dislocated shoulder.

In the girls under-19 final, Donia Leeves, of Sussex, faces an uphill task against the top-seeded Jade Wilson, from New Zealand, who yesterday brushed aside Stephanie Brind, of Kent, 9-3, 9-5, 9-1. Leeves scraped through 0-9, 9-3, 8-10, 9-7, 10-8 against Tracey Shenton, of Staffordshire, aided by a couple of doubtful refereeing calls that turned things her way when Shenton held match ball at 8-7 in the fifth game.

In the under-16 finals, home hopes rest with Tania Bailey, of Lincolnshire, who faces Isabelle Stoehr, of France. The boys' under-16 final is between Ahmed Faizy, of Egypt, the defending champion, and Ong Beng Hee, of Malaysia, who fought back from 0-2 and 2-7 down in the third game against John Russell, of Kent, the second seed, to win 2-9, 2-9, 9-7, 9-0, 9-3 in 85 minutes.

More domestic encouragement, in a season which marks England's highest point in international men's competition, came in the boys' under-14 semi-finals. Jonathan Kemp, of Shropshire, recovered from 0-4 down in the third game against Karim Darwish, of Egypt, the favourite, to win 4-9, 1-9, 9-4, 9-7, 9-6. Later, Adam Shields, of Hampshire, won 9-3, 9-1, 9-4 against Alberto Manso, of Spain.

Results, page 34

RADIO CHOICE

The story of Cio-Cio-San

Curtain Up: Madam Butterfly. *Radio 3, 8.55pm.*

This is opera without tears. I would not recommend it to anyone who winces at the mere thought of a Pavarotti encore of "Nessun dorma". Aled Jones tells the story of *Butterfly*, and Puccini biographer Charles Osborne puts her into an historical context. The soprano Susan Bullock explains why she loves to sing Cio-Cio-San; a pity that in the excerpts we hear it is not her interpretation we get but Tebaldi's. I liked Osborne's contribution best, though he fails to mention that stroke of musical genius in *Butterfly*, the *bocca chiusa* chorus. He verbalises what many of us must have thought about some Cio-Cio-Sans we have seen. When she replies, "fifteen" to a question, it could be her weight in stones she means, not her age.

Off Piste. *Radio 5 Live, 9.05pm.*

Sooner or later, it had to happen. And it happens tonight. I accept the BBC's claim that *Off Piste* is radio's first skiing/snowboarding magazine. By their very nature such programmes are last-minute affairs, therefore I cannot pass judgment on the contents. What I can say is that Sandy Warr is the series' regular presenter, Murray Hudson reports from the ski resorts, and you can expect up-to-the-minute weather information, tips on training and safety, snow fashion notes, and news of bargain holidays and ski-theme competitions. And if you have had a bad tumble, on or off piste, you can phone in with the painful details.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Kevin Greening 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa L'Anson with the Lunchtime Show, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 9.00 John Peel: with sessions from three-piece bands Thrush Puppies from Norwich, Cheshire, and Smog from San Francisco 1.00am Tim Westwood

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Fiona Armstrong 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Scoop! Derek Jameson tells the story of Liszt 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Penelope Thwaites at the piano 9.00 Listen to the Band: Frank Renton presents the Williams Fairey Band under Peter Parkes 10.00 Austin Mitchell with the Radio 2 Arts Programme. Is Huddersfield the poetry capital of Britain? 12.05am Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes 1.00 Jon Briggs with Night Ride

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.35 The Magazine, including at 9.40 Video Review; 10.15 Health and Fitness Campaign; 10.35 Euronews; 11.00 Chain Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay Moneycheck 2.05 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 the day's sport in full 7.35 Alan Green's Sportstalk 9.05 Off Piste: See Choice 9.35 Now the Good News... 10.05 Stop Press, with John Diamond 10.35 Financial Week 11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night, with Richard Dallyn

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Fruhmagazin 5.00 Newshour 6.00 Morgenmagazin 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Oscar and Lucinda 7.30 Rev Me Up 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 On the Move 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Focus on Faith 10.30 World Ranking 11.00 Newsdesk 11.15 BBC English 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Rev Me Up 12.45 Sport 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Oscar and Lucinda 2.45 Global Concerns 3.00 News 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.05 World Business Report 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 Rev Me Up 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 People and Politics 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Multitrack: Alternative 12.00 News 12.15am Poets of Place 12.30 From the Weeklies 12.45 The Learning World 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Worldbrief 1.45 Jazz Now and Then 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Robert Booth 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 5.00 Classic Reports 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN

6.00am Paul Coyle 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyle 11.00 Nick Abbot 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

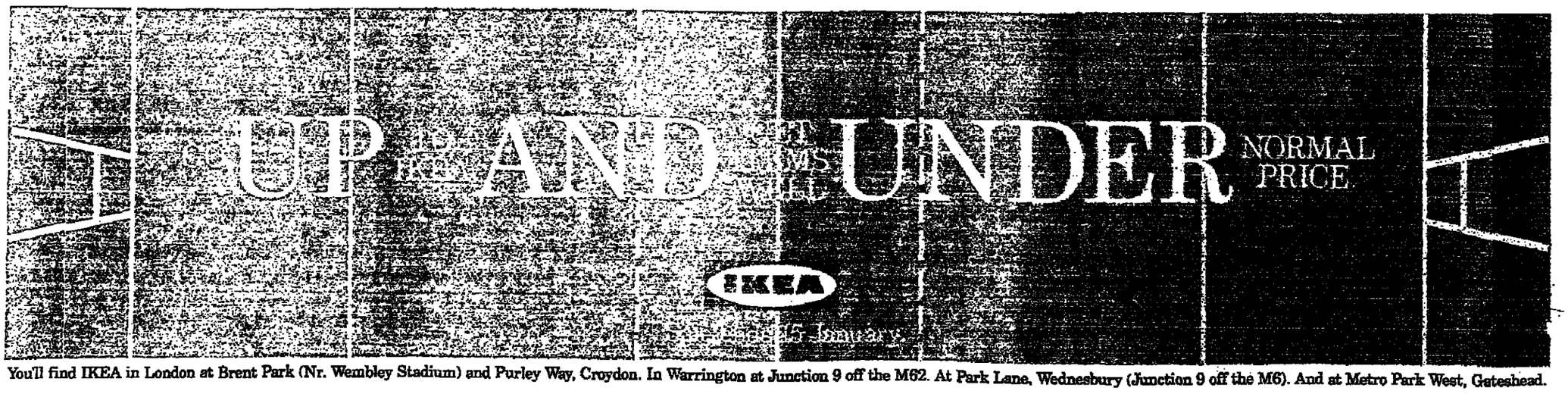
RADIO 3

6.55am Weather 7.00 On Air. Boyce (Overture No 12); Glinka (Valse fantasie); 7.32 Haydn (String Quartet in D); Berlioz (Overture, Le Corsaire) 9.00 Composers of the Week: The Eton Choirbook 10.00 Musical Encounters: Debussy (Ibéria, Images); Scarlatti (Sonata in C); Per Norgard (Anatomic Safari); Handel (Dixit Dominus); Satie (Parade); Talitis (Spem in Alium); Gordon MacPherson (Larne God) 12.00 Voices: Dmitri Hvorostovsky (r) 1.00pm St David's Hall Lunchtime Recital: Clara Schumann (Trio in G minor); Fanny Mendelssohn (Trio in D minor) 2.00 Youth Orchestras of the World: The young Espinho Music School Chamber Orchestra from Portugal 3.40 Joanna MacGregor, piano. Berg (Sonata); Schoenberg (Six Little Pieces); Harold Arlen, arr Django Bates (It's only a paper moon); Cole Porter, arr Gary Carpenter (Love for sale) (r) 4.30 The Sailor's Piano: (1/2) 5.00 The Music Machine (r) 5.15 The Shellac Show: Handel on 78s 6.00 The Record Producers: Ray Minshull 7.30 Berlin Philharmonic under Riccardo Muti. Schumann (Symphony No 3); Fauré (Pelléas et Mélisande); Debussy (La Mer) 8.55 Curtain Up: Madam Butterfly. See Choice 9.20 York Early Music Festival: Mass for the Dedication of St Peter's, Rome 10.45 Friday Feature: The Thing of the World that I Love Most. The diary of Samuel Pepys 11.30-12.30am Midnight Oil: New music for ancient instruments

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.30 Today, incl half-hourly News 6.45 Business News 8.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Diaries and Letters of Dorothy Wordsworth 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: The political diarist Alan Clark (r) 10.00-10.30 News; One Born Every Minute (FM only): People who record the words on gravestones 10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.15 Children's Radio 4 (LW only): The Willows in Winter, by William Horwood 10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray 11.30 The Natural History Programme: Balloon Debate. Birds, mammals, insects and reptiles argue for the right to survive 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm The Food Programme 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Classic Serial: The Diary of Samuel Pepys(r) 3.00 News; Anderson Country 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Reviews the Taboos 4.45 Short Story: Heavens! By Ilona van Mil (r) 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 News 6.30 Going Places 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week 8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby and guests in Leicester 8.50 Ninety Not Out: The actress and singer Mary Ellis 9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Wayward Girls and Wicked Women (r) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 A Book at Bedtime: The Phantom of the Opera (5/10) 11.00 Week Ending: Satire 11.25 Fourth Column: Alistair Beaton's guests include Mark Steyn and John Walters 11.45 Writer-in-Hospital: The poet Pete Morgan reflects (r) 12.00-12.43am News, incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast 12.43 As World Service (LW only)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey



You'll find IKEA in London at Brent Park (Nr. Wembley Stadium) and Purley Way, Croydon. In Warrington at Junction 9 off the M62. At Park Lane, Wednesbury (Junction 9 off the M6). And at Metro Park West, Gateshead.

هكذا بعث الأصل

The perfect opening for a new programme

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

A tall 22-year-old, flushed with pride, phones home in a corridor. "So how do you think I'll look in green?" he blurts, and an audible cheer goes up. The programme is **Situation Vacant** (a new series on BBC 2) and the happy chap is Ben, who has passed his Admiralty Interview Board and will now train as an officer in the Royal Marines. At home, the viewer feels a certain glow of achievement. We've been through it with you, Ben. When you did those 85 sit-ups in two minutes, we practised sympathetic breathing; when you endured the seven-mile obstacle course, we dabbed our own muddy brows; and when you pointed to Belize on a map of the world, we also had a good, vague-ish general idea where you'd stick your finger. To us, then! To us.

Job selection procedures always make good television. You get so involved. Jane Treays's *Situation Vacant* is on to a very good thing, if for the next six weeks it shadows three or four nervous, eager candidates through eliminating tests, interviews, panels and marks out of 1,000. The best bit is listening to the panels' remarks afterwards — "He wasn't particularly smart", "He appears to be quite a character" — and guessing how this will be manifested in pass or fail. Long ago, when the BBC ran a short series about candidates for the Civil Service, it became a national talking-point, so shocking were the revelations of class bias when the board made its comments.

There is a certain pleasure, too, in seeing the failures. Rohan, 23, was obliged to pull out quite early, during the seven-mile run. What defeated him was the 90-foot crawl through a narrow, semi-submerged pipeline — so the disgrace was not large. Next to hit the floor, more gratifyingly, was the over-confident Tom, 17, who failed after a weekend of torments. "I'll put you out of your misery. You haven't passed." Nick, 23, passed his Admiralty Interview Board, but only just. "We have reservations about your character and personality, also your manner, style and temperament." Nick might have countered that he was unimpressed by the board's use of repetition, tautology and saying the same thing twice. It is always pleasant to see authority figures misusing English. They complained that Nick was "laconic", too — meaning he talked too much.

Channel 4's **Witness** told the appalling story of Drancy, the French wartime concentration camp just outside Paris. The Drancy camp was a half-built public housing complex which the French converted into a detention camp for Jews, filling it initially with 5,000 men, but later using it as a collection point for men, women and children. It still stands, but is presumably empty. Shouldn't it be pulled down?

The significant point was that this establishment was nothing to do with the Nazis, or not at first. The earliest measures against French Jews and immigrants were undertaken by the Vichy Government without prompting from the occupying Germans. Until 1943, in fact, Drancy was run entirely by the French: the guards on the watch-towers were gendarmes. But in the end, the camp was just another funnel for the final solution. As the story progressed, the caption to each name ("Drancy survivor") changed, unremarked, to "Drancy/Auschwitz survivor". Of the 74,000 Jews deported from France, only 2,500 survived. More than 43,000 were gassed immediately on arrival.

Accepting his Oscar for *Schindler's List* last year, Steven Spielberg made rather a large claim. Thanks to his film, he said, the Holocaust would not remain "a footnote in history" — a remark of great arrogance, and even greater stupidity. Footnote? If the Holocaust is a footnote, I'd like to know what's on the page. Stephen Trombley, who made last night's film (and whose book *Drancy: The Ante-Room of Auschwitz* is published later in the year) has demonstrated yet again that every footnote to the Holocaust beggars belief. One of the survivors, who rose to become a high-ranking French public official, says he still flinches when he passes a gendarme in the street.

Back in rural sitcom Never Land, **Outside Edge** returned to ITV for a second series, amid well-justified yells of "Howzat?". Turning a stage comedy into a series isn't supposed to work, but Richard Harris has managed it beautifully. Shot on film in summer, with predominant colours green and white, *Outside Edge* is the dramatic equivalent of a good cream tea, or the sound, "pock", of leather on willow (or whatever it is). Amateurs have been staging the play for years, recognising that with characters like Roger ("Love you! OK? Fair enough?") and Miriam ("Oh well, it's not compulsory"), you could hardly go wrong. I doubt the amateurs are so keen now. Brenda Blethyn's Miriam is a tough act to follow.

Last night's first episode was the usual cricket-team crisis of men dropping out, men with broken legs being forced to play anyway, men with gippy tums careering to the lavatory, and Kevin (Timothy Spall) finding a nasty blister on his spin-finger, mysteriously acquired when Maggie (Josie Lawrence in big fur coat and glasses) "sat on it". Can Kevin wear a plaster, or will he be disqualified? That's the big issue. Meanwhile Miriam is angry with Roger — her anger taking the characteristic form of driving him to the game and making the teas with her usual efficiency. Roger (Robert Daws) is petulant and frantic with his uncommitted team ("Look, how many discs did you slip? Just *one*?"). And Maggie and Kevin spoon continuously ("You dozy great haystack"), the fondest couple on television.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (74322)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (18890032)

9.05 Kilroy. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a topical studio discussion (s) (8165728)

10.00 News. (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1043148) **10.05 Good Morning with Anne and Nick** (s) (85315322)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7596896) **12.05 Pebble Mill** (s) (3585761) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (76977525)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (46490)

1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (91624254) **1.50 Timekeepers.** Quiz game (s) (91628070)

2.15 Holiday (r). (Ceefax) (s) (749877) **2.45 The Flying Doctors** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5153877)

3.30 Cartoon (5854612) **3.45 Bitsa.** A new series of the recycling household junk show (s) (5859167) **4.00 Jackanory.** Josie Lawrence with the last part of *Fowl Past*, by James Andrew Hall (s) (6770525) **4.10 Rugrats** (s) (6776709) **4.20 The Borrowers** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (1736780)

4.55 NEW **Newsround Extra.** Julie Etchingham on how life is changing for children at the dawn of a new era in South Africa (s) (7907167)

5.10 Grange Hill. Comprehensive school drama. (Ceefax) (s) (1888032)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (302506)

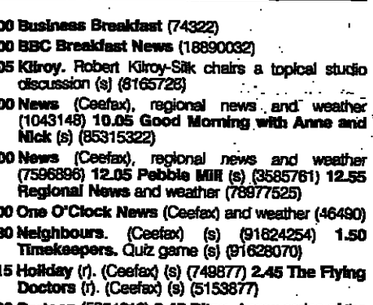
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (159)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (821)

7.00 Wipeout. *Game show with Paul Daniels.* (Ceefax) (s) (6544)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes Shahnaz Pakravan in France to see a special vehicle designed to explore Mars. (Ceefax) (s) (235)

8.00 Only Fools and Horses. More comedy from the Trotter brothers (r). (Ceefax) (2984)



The dark humour of medicine (8.30pm)

8.30 NEW **Health and Efficiency** (s) (1099)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2709)

9.30 NEW **999.** Michael Buerk introduces more dramatic incidents involving Britain's emergency services. (Ceefax) (831726). **Northern Ireland:** The Empire Strikes Back 10.10 999 11.00 Film: Educating Rita 12.55-2.35 Film: The Domino Killings

10.20 FILM: Educating Rita (1983) starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters. Warm-hearted comedy, based on Willy Russell's hit play about the relationship between a sparky hairdresser and her jaded lecturer. Directed by Lewis Gilbert. (Ceefax) (870148). **Wales:** All Our Lives 10.50 Film: Educating Rita 12.40-2.20 Film: The Domino Killings

12.10am FILM: The Domino Killings (1977) starring Gene Hackman, Candice Bergen and Richard Widmark. Conspiracy theories abound in this tense thriller in which a Vietnam veteran is hired by a secret organisation to kill a public figure. Directed by Stanley Kramer. (Ceefax) (452755)

1.50 Weather (8960571)

BBC2

7.00 Dilly the Dinosaur (r) (406551) **7.05 Bump** (r) (4064322) **7.10 Toxic Crusaders** (r). (Ceefax) (8321877) **7.35 Blue Peter** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (1551877)

8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (8442051) **8.15 Thunderbirds** (r). (Ceefax) (3347631)

9.05 Losing It All: The Reality of Alzheimer's (8156070)

10.00 Playdays (r) (s) (6310411)

10.25 FILM: Auntie Mame (1958) starring Rosalind Russell, Forrest Tucker and Coral Browne. A comedy about a young orphan who goes to live with his wealthy but eccentric aunt. Directed by Morton DaCosta (37331525)

12.45 Miss-Takes. Comedy clips from the BBC archives (68378612) **1.00 Charlie Chalk** (r) (13362612)

1.15 Life's Burning Desires. A film which follows Paul Mercurio and his company through rehearsals of their new dance-theatre piece, *Contact* (6464964)

2.10 Sport on Friday. Football, darts and ski-jumping With **News** and weather at **3.00** and **3.50** (84387341)

5.00 Home Front. Home furnishing magazine (r) (4322)

5.30 All in the Mind. Lateral-thinking quiz (728)

6.00 Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons (r). (Ceefax) (840322) **6.25 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (223457)

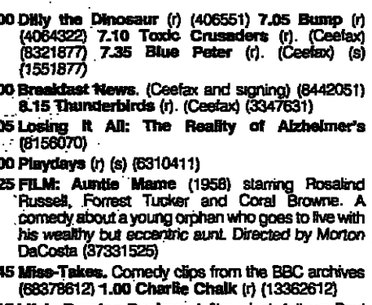
7.15 The O-Zone. Pop music (s) (418167)

7.30 Sounds of the Sixties (r) (877)

8.00 Danger Theatre. Spoof thriller show (9326)

8.30 More Front Gardens. A communal garden for the occupants of a large Victorian house that has been divided into flats (2341)

9.00 NEW **Bottom.** More sordid misadventures with sex-starved pals Richie and Eddie. Starring Rik Mayall and Adrian Edmondson. (Ceefax) (s) (3051)



Flying high with Air Scotia (9.30pm)

9.30 NEW **The High Life.** (Ceefax) (18070)

10.00 The Day Today. Award-winning current affairs spoof (r) (s) (97099)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (488070)

11.15 Fantasy Football (s) (388952)

11.45 Duckman. Adult animation series, with the music of Frank Zappa (485273) **12.10am Weather** (9414194)

12.15 World Darts (s) (371194)

1.15 FILM: Retreat, Hell (1952) starring Frank Lovejoy. Korean War drama directed by Joseph H. Lewis. (Ceefax) (686026). Ends at **2.55**

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CHOICE

The High Life
BBC2, 9.30pm

A Scottish airline with an unreliable pilot and feuding cabin crew is the setting for a new sitcom by Alan Cumming and Forbes Masson. The pair also turn up in the lead roles, as young stewards bored with their jobs and running scared of the imperious chief purser. She is played by Siobhan Redmond, letting her hair down after suffering nobly in *Between the Lines*. As for Captain Duff (Patrick Ryecart), he thinks he is Leonard Nimoy from *Star Trek* and has the ears to match. The series is launched with a plot about a party of pensioners travelling courtesy of, wait for it, Gaga Holidays. If you think that is funny, you may also relish the gags about crinkties, false teeth and incontinence. If not, you are watching the wrong show.



Nigel Havers and Christine Kavanagh (ITV, 9.00pm)

Catherine Cookson's The Glass Virgin
ITV, 9.00pm

One of the main points of interest about the latest small-screen Cookson is the casting of that nice Nigel Havers as an unspeakable rotter. Master of a country pile in Victorian England, Havers's Edmund is a gambler and womaniser who has fathered an illegitimate daughter, abuses the wife he married for her money and spends much of his time sacking his servants, though he has so many that a few fewer seems hardly to matter. No wonder that daughter Annabella, who is destined to become the heroine of the tale, cannot wait to be shot of him. She, by contrast, is an angel, taking pity on the poor and giving them food. The other significant character is a groom who is called Manuel Mendoza but turns out to be Irish.

Health and Efficiency
BBC1, 8.30pm

The hospital sitcom by Andrew Marshall of *2point4 Children* enters its second series in characteristically mordant form. The central joke concerns a surprise birthday party, designed to cheer up the lugubrious houseman. It is to be held in the mortuary. Another gag is about a computer programme which claims to predict how long a patient will survive. There is even a laugh or two to be had out of a coma. The keynote line comes from registrar Michael (played by Gary Olsen, also of *2point4 Children*): "Doctors don't have souls, they get in the way." This is black humour, certainly, but thanks to Marshall's light touch, it never becomes bleak. Besides, hospitals and their staff are there to be made fun of. Otherwise they could be unbearable.

Short Stories: Rotbusters
Channel 4, 8.00pm

Dry rot is no laughing matter. It can spread like a cancer and cost a fortune to treat. Yet you have to admit that Robert Letts has made an entertaining film about it, though the Cowies and the Pinnegars might not agree. The Cowies live in a small terrace house, the Pinnegars in a stately home but thanks to the deadly infestation each of their abodes could be reduced to a pile of rubble. The film not only features contrasting houses but also rot hunters with opposite approaches to treatment. Mike Perrin is a traditionalist who advocates major surgery. Tim Hutton favours what might be called alternative medicine, improving ventilation and planting moisture-soaking shrubs next to affected walls.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON/LWT

6.00 GMTV (3782631)

9.25 Chain Letters. Ted Robbins presents the word game show (4278506) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (3960790)

10.00 The Time . . . The Place. Topical discussion series chaired by John Stapleton (s) (9553612)

10.35 This Morning (32491525) **12.20 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7585780)

12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (7951438)

12.55 Coronation Street (r). (Teletext) (7969457) **1.25 Home and Away.** Australian family drama. (Teletext) (34324322)

1.55 NEW **Chrystal's Style Guide.** Beauty and fashion series (s) (12342326)

2.25 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s) (17363896) **2.50 Take the High Road.** Highland drama series (6384457)

3.20 ITN News headlines. (Teletext) (5813728) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (5812099)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (5849780) **3.45 Warner Brothers Cartoon** (5844235) **4.00 Zzzap!** (s) (2690235) **4.15 Tiny Toon Adventures** (4714506) **4.40 Virtually Impossible.** Computer games show. (Teletext) (s) (3041099)

5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating. (Teletext) (4825934)

5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (304099)

6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (844148)

6.25 London Tonight with Lindsay Charlton and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (552506)

7.00 Catchphrase. Game show presented by Roy Walker. (Teletext) (s) (1612)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (631)

8.00 The Bill. Harry Haines returns to the Sun Hill station to assist Meadows in a hunt for a consignment of heroin. Starring Simon Rouse and Gary Whelan. (Teletext) (7032)



Diana Weston and Joe McGann (8.30pm)

8.30 NEW **The Upper Hand.** Joe McGann returns as Charlie, the home help who is engaged to his boss. (Teletext) (s) (6167)

9.00 CHOICE **Catherine Cookson's The Glass Virgin.** (Teletext) (s) (9341)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (84525)

10.30 FILM: Eyes Of Laura Mars (1978) starring Faye Dunaway A fashion photographer suffers premonitions of a series of murders as her friends and colleagues are slashed one by one. With Tommy Lee Jones. Directed by Irvin Kershner (48189490)

12.25am London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (9502303)

12.30 One To One. The life and career of Paul Young (2015945)

1.05 The James Whale Show (s) (2882129)

2.05 The Chart Show (s) (3706002)

3.00 Noisy Mothers. Rock and heavy metal music magazine (s) (9214378)

3.55 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (9626945)

4.30 The New Music (55194)

5.30 ITN Morning News (32262). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Once Upon A Time . . . Life. Animated look at the functions of the body (r) (8498780)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (69341)

9.00 You Bet Your Life (r) (s) (94902)

9.30 Stand Still, Be Fit. Minimal movement exercises (s) (8289693)

9.45 Evening Shade (r) (s) (496273)

10.15 FILM: Babes on Broadway (1941, b/w). A Busby Berkeley musical starring Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland (35515490)

12.25 The Swester. Bafta award-winning animation by Sheldon Cohen about Canadians' passion for ice hockey (7591341)

12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning entertainment (67099) **1.30 The Magic Roundabout** followed by **The Wombles, Paddington** and **Noggin the Nog** (22273)

2.00 Musical Comedy Greats: Private Lessons. Another classic comedy short (76312167)

2.20 FILM: Battle of the Sexes (1959, b/w) starring Peter Sellers and Constance Cummings. A comedy about an ageing accountant who decides to take on the American efficiency expert who is hired to shake up his outdated Scottish tweed company. Directed by Charles Crichton (736457)

3.55 Travelog. Reports from Sardinia and northern Cyprus (r) (Teletext) (s) (3553525)

4.30 Countdown. Another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (544)

5.00 Steaming Passions. Nigel Farrell journeys into the little-explored world of women and steam trains. He meets the ticket inspector on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, the woman historian of the Ffestiniog Steam Railway and Heidi Mewforth, who is studying to become a steam-train driver (r) (8525)

6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based comedy series (r). (Teletext) (s) (709)

6.30 Movievatch. Cinemagoers in Brighton comment on the latest releases (s) (761)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (404780)

7.50 You Don't Know Me But . . . A person in the news receives unsolicited advice (462148)



Tim Hutton tackles dry rot (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Short Stories: Rotbusters.** (Teletext) (s) (8902)

8.30 Brookside. Drama serial set in a suburban Merseyside close (Teletext) (s) (4709)

9.00 Ellen. American comedy series starring Ellen DeGeneres. (Teletext) (s) (5419)

9.30 An Evening With Lee Evans. A showcase for the British comedian (r). (Teletext) (s) (10438)

10.00 Roseanne. Wisecracking American comedy series. (Teletext) (s) (82167)

10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Clive Anderson introduces the best moments that didn't get into the last series (761815)

11.05 The Word Music and mayhem magazine (959457)

12.10am The Beavis and Butt-head Moronathon. An extended (six episode) edition of the cheeky couple's rock critiques and other escapades (s) (30745864). Ends at **2.50**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: **1.55** The Young Doctors (91629709) **2.20** Gardens without Borders (17355877) **2.50-3.20** Wish You Were Here...? (6384457) **5.10-5.40** Eye TV (4825934) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (552506) **10.40-1.05pm** Wild Geese II (66231531) **2.05am-3.00** ITV Chart Show (3706002) **4.25** Jobfinder (4998026) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2397465)

CENTRAL
As London except: **1.55** A Country Practice (91629709) **2.20** Wish You Were Here? (17355877) **2.50-3.15** Zoo Life with Jack Hanna (7085544) **5.10-5.40** Eye TV (4825934) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (552506) **10.40-1.05pm** Wild Geese II (66231531) **2.05am-3.00** ITV Chart Show (3706002) **4.25** Jobfinder (4998026) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2397465)

GRANADA
As London except: **9.55-10.00** Granada News (3980790) **12.20pm-12.30** Granada News (7585780) **12.55** Shortland Street (7989457) **1.25** Home and Away (51912883) **1.50** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (6104877) **2.50-3.20** Gardeners' Diary (6384457) **3.25-3.30** Granada News (5812099) **5.10** Take the High Road (4825934) **5.40-6.00** ITN Early Evening News, Weekend Weather (804099) **6.25** Granada Tonight (940896) **6.50** Kick Off! (8968896) **7.00-7.30** Catchphrase (1612) **10.00** ITN News; Weekend Weather (84525) **10.30** Granada News (413898) **10.35** The Omen (23732631) **12.40am** The Twilight Zone (1130216) **1.05** The James Whale Show (2882129) **2.05** The Chart Show (3706002) **3.00** Noisy Mothers (9214378) **3.55** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (9626945) **4.30-5.30** The New Music (55194)

HTV WEST
As London except: **9.55-10.00** ITN News Headlines (3930790) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV West News and Weather (7585780) **1.55** Take the High Road (12342226) **2.25-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (5719235) **3.25-3.30** HTV West Headlines (5812099) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (4825934) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (419) **10.30** HTV West Headlines (150815) **10.40** The Great American Sex Scandal (40552780) **12.30am-1.05** The Twilight Zone (2015945)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: **12.20pm-12.30** HTV Wales' News and Weather (7585780) **3.25-3.30** HTV News (5812099) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (419) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (150815)

MERIDIAN
As London except: **9.55am-10.00** Meridian News and Weather (3980790) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (7585780) **1.55** A Country Practice (91629709) **2.20-2.50** Heirloom (17355877) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (5812099) **5.10** Home and Away (4825934) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (54821) **10.30** Westcountry News; Weather (150815) **10.40** The Graduate (40643032) **12.35am** Coach (1133309) **1.00-2.05** The James Whale Show (4164007)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: **1.55** A Country Practice (91629709) **2.20-3.15** Murder, She Wrote (5729612) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (4825934) **5.55** Calendar (955709) **6.30-7.00** Cryer's Crackers (419) **10.40** Married with Children (950896) **11.10** Dracula (2322896) **1.10am** The James Whale Show (2701200) **2.10** The Big E (7607213) **3.05** The Intelligence Men (515216) **4.30** Profile (78292484) **5.00-5.30** Sprockets (86574)

S4C
Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (69341) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (94902) **9.30** Stand Still, Be Fit (8289693) **9.45** Evening Shade (7277092) **10.10** Babes On Broadway (35523419) **12.20pm** The Swesser (7583322) **12.30** Slot Machine (223022) **1.00** Sesame Street (28457) **2.00** The Prince And The Showgirl (58265508) **4.10** Silent Love (4722525) **4.30** Saved By The Bell (544) **5.00** S.Pump - Undo 5 (9490) **5.30** Countdown (998) **6.00** Newyddion 6/ News (938051) **6.30** Hanb (5764577) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (8254) **7.30** Rhegor O Wynt (273) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (8002) **8.30** Newyddion/News (4709) **9.00** Pawb A'I Fam (406864) **9.45** Lle'r A Gas (922506) **10.00** Brookside (82167) **10.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? (761815) **11.05** The Word (959457) **12.10am** Beavis And Butt-Head Moronathon (44501839)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
8.00am *The DJ Kat Show* (87295812) **7.45** The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers (6547490) **8.40** Dynamo Duck (6743411) **8.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (4580980) **9.30** Card Sharks (56254) **10.00** Concentration (8883815) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (8938490) **10.30** Candid Camera (27254) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (89332) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (18506) **12.30pm** E Street (50070) **1.00** St Elsewhere (55525) **2.00** Lsce II (60506) **3.00** Oprah Winfrey (9360148) **3.50** The DJ Kat Show (3822254) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1631) **6.00** Gamesworld (8815) **6.30** Blockbusters (7167) **7.00** E Street (9032) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6051) **8.00** The Andrew Newton Hypnotic Experience (8780) **8.30** Coppers (7815) **9.00** Chicago Hope (89506) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (82693) **11.00** David Letterman (685186) **11.45** Chances (684761) **12.45am** Barney Miller (19939) **1.15-1.45** Night Court (37692)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (9932341) **9.30** Worldwide Report (96032) **10.30** ABC Nightline (25896) **11.00** World News and Business (17902) **1.30** CBS News (84341) **2.30** Travel Destinations (82544) **3.30** Special Report (8273) **4.00** World News and Business (74186) **5.00** Live at Five (8273) **6.30** Talkback (5709) **8.00** News and Business (34728) **9.30** *Financial Times* Reports (45148) **11.30** CBS News (89631) **12.30am** ABC News (97064) **1.30** Talkback Replay (77842) **2.30** *Financial Times* Report (51939) **3.30** Special Report (58484) **4.30** CBS News (22245) **5.30-6.00** ABC News

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (2692490) **10.00** The Yarn Princess (1993) (61186) **12.00** Are You Being Served? (1977) (74709) **2.00pm** Columbo: Undercover (1992) (18083) **4.00** Buckeye and Blue (1988) (3295) **6.00** The Yarn Princess: As 10am (93709) **8.00** Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead (1991) (98457726) **9.45** US Top Ten (58265508) **4.10** Silent Love (4722525) **4.30** Saved By The Bell (544) **5.00** S.Pump - Undo 5 (9490) **5.30** Countdown (998) **6.00** Newyddion 6/ News (938051) **6.30** Hanb (5764577) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (8254) **7.30** Rhegor O Wynt (273) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad (8002) **8.30** Newyddion/News (4709) **9.00** Pawb A'I Fam (406864) **9.45** Lle'r A Gas (922506) **10.00** Brookside (82167) **10.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? (761815) **11.05** The Word (959457) **12.10am** Beavis And Butt-Head Moronathon (44501839)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
8.00am *The Trouble with Angels* (1966) (77078380) **8.10** Pinocchio (1993): Animation (9161070) **9.00 Thumbelina:** Cartoon (55708) **10.00** The Artzonian (1985) (55258148) **11.20 Exodus** (1960) (31479544) **2.45pm Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III** (1992) (81244187) **4.20** Pinocchio: As 8.10am (3129032) **5.10 Thumbelina:** As 9am (7367070) **6.00 The Seven Year Itch** (1955) (84051) **8.00 Swing Kids** (1992) (96896) **10.00 Sleepwalkers** (1992) (59525) **11.30 Wide Sargasso Sea** (1993) (924916) **1.10am A Stranger in the Mirror** (1992) (101910) **2.45 Seed People** (1991) (51876149) **4.10-6.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III:** As 2.45pm (628839)

● **For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Soccer News (1543186) **7.15** WWF Action Zone (523051) **8.15** Soccer News (2605490) **8.30** Powerboat World (69631) **9.30** Aerobics (81525) **10.00** Opposite Lock (61761) **12.00** Aerobics (43877) **12.30pm** NBA Basketball (50761) **2.30** Golf Special: Ryder Cup Review (17308) **3.30** American Sports (30032) **4.30** Transworld Sport (84381) **5.00** NBA Action (5612) **5.30** World Soccer Magazine (2490) **6.00** Soccer Weekend (80032) **7.00** The Big League, Live: Widnes v Workington (847493) **9.30** Boot Room (22341) **10.30** Cricket, Live: England v Zimbabwe (7092148)

SKY SPORTS 2
6.00pm Max Out (8745273) **6.30** NBA Action (8736525) **7.00** Cycling — Inside Track (90234111) **7.30** Sloll Sailing (87327709) **8.00** Ford Scorpio US PGA Golf, Live: Mercedes Cup (73629968) **11.30-12.00** Gillette World Sports Special (8881544)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Rally Raid (40254) **8.00** Eurofun (68186) **8.30** Snowboarding (67457) **9.00** Race Across the Sky (95341) **10.00** Rally Raid (41849) **10.30** Live Alpine Skiing (67602) **12.00** Ski Jumping (12983) **2.00pm** Alpine Skiing (91308) **3.00** Live Football: Intercontinental Champions Cup (54337761) **7.00** News (3524) **7.30** Speed Skating (68322) **8.30** Rally Raid (50899) **9.00** Alpine Skiing and Ski Jumping (10490) **10.00** Tennis: Hopman Cup from Perth (18544) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (22823)

SKY SOAP
8.00am Loving (2395761) **8.30** Peyton Place (2394032) **9.00** As the World Turns (9143457) **10.00** Guiding Light (4635148) Daughters (7796728) **8.30** EastEnders (7795099) **9.00** The Bill (7779051) **9.30** All Creatures Great and Small (2791273) **10.30** Casualty (2488508) **11.30** Blankety Blank (2801167) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7798815) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2145693) **1.00** EastEnders (7845815) **1.30** The Bill (2144964) **2.00** Dear John (4286867) **2.30** Just Good Friends (7972877) **3.00** Knots Landing (2605883) **4.00** Dynasty (2684490) **5.00** Every Second Counts (3689322) **5.35** Top of the Pops: The 1970s (2576148) **5.55** Porridge (7951693) **6.30** EastEnders (7997186) **7.00** Dear John (7078323) **7.30** Father, Dear Father (7986070) **8.00** Carry On TV Specials (6975728) **9.00** Casualty (9955964) **10.00** The Bill (7790544) **10.30** Top of the Pops (5651964) **11.20** Cannot Confidential (2386231) **12.00** Dr Who: Battlefield (3539649) **12.30am** FILM: Dream Date (1804484) **2.20** Shopping at Night



Rancher Gregory Peck (Sky Movies Gold, 10.25pm)

11.00-12.00 Another World (4636977)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 China (2305148) **12.30pm** Kids Down Under (85319883) **1.00** Miami (4659728) **1.30** Cooking in America (8530254) **2.00** Ski Perfect (3623475) **2.30** China (5744544) **3.00** American Vacation (7832612) **4.00** Review (8735896) **4.30** Kids Down Under (8724780) **5.00** Ski Perfect (98288857) **5.30-6.00** Cooking in America (87150312)

TLC
9.00am A Brush with Ashley (7777693) **9.30** Madeleine Cooks (21484819) **10.00** Talking Heads (4874896) **10.30** Only Human (2467148) **11.30** Inside Crime (26097089) **12.00** Forty Something (2155070) **1.00** Madeleine Cooks (7843457) **1.30** A Brush with Ashley (2142506) **2.00** Parents Talking (60868945) **2.30** Psychology (75319341) **3.30-4.00** The Secret Life of Machines (79758964)

UK GOLD
7.00am Blankety Blank (7846544) **7.30** Neighbours (7825051) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7796728) **8.30** EastEnders (7795099) **9.00** The Bill (7779051) **9.30** All Creatures Great and Small (2791273) **10.30** Casualty (2488508) **11.30** Blankety Blank (2801167) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7798815) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2145693) **1.00** EastEnders (7845815) **1.30** The Bill (2144964) **2.00** Dear John (4286867) **2.30** Just Good Friends (7972877) **3.00** Knots Landing (2605883) **4.00** Dynasty (2684490) **5.00** Every Second Counts (3689322) **5.35** Top of the Pops: The 1970s (2576148) **5.55** Porridge (7951693) **6.30** EastEnders (7997186) **7.00** Dear John (7078323) **7.30** Father, Dear Father (7986070) **8.00** Carry On TV Specials (6975728) **9.00** Casualty (9955964) **10.00** The Bill (7790544) **10.30** Top of the Pops (5651964) **11.20** Cannot Confidential (2386231) **12.00** Dr Who: Battlefield (3539649) **12.30am** FILM: Dream Date (1804484) **2.20** Shopping at Night

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
8.00am Sesame Street (9306322) **8.55** Garfield (3142525) **7.25** Eek the Cat (8355612) **7.55** Pugwall (5717693) **8.25** Super Mario Brothers (6986780) **8.45** Casper (3184256) **9.00** Sesame Street (28693) **10.00** It's Drobee Time (77983) **11.00** Teddy Trucks (64419) **12.00** Garfield (54371) **12.30pm** Eek the Cat (21167) **1.00** Beverly Hills Teens (68235) **1.30** Super Mario Brothers (62034867) **1.45** Baby Follies (71569772) **2.00** Barney (8726) **2.30** Babar (2070) **3.00** Casper and Friends (6870341) **3.15** Gravedale High (476544) **3.45** Sonic the Hedgehog (475815) **4.15** Heed to Heed in 3D (4346032) **4.30-5.00** Pugwall (9506)

NICKELODEON
7.00am Denver (34693) **7.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks (53728) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (31032) **8.30** Rocko (63631) **9.00** Rugrats (54963) **9.30** Clarissa (89167) **10.00** Grimmy (41803) **10.30** Where on Earth is Carmen Sandiego? (50167) **11.00** Killer Tomatoes (10902) **11.30** Ren and Stimpy (11631) **12.00** Pee-Wee (41419) **12.30pm** Galaxy High School (63983) **1.00** Doug (33954) **1.30** Alvin and the Chipmunks (82254) **2.00** Denver (2902) **2.30** Smoggies (9544) **3.00** Nick Faves (8709) **3.30** Dungeons and Dragons (1761) **4.00** Rude Dog and Dweeb (7916) **4.30** Rugrats (9780) **5.00** Clarissa (3254) **5.30** Alex Mac (7772) **6.00** Doug (2083) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (1526)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Dolphins (2882032) **5.00** Rediscovering America (3836326) **6.00** Beyond 2000 (2151254) **7.00** Ambulance! (2486885) **7.30** A Traveller's Guide to the Orient (7984612) **8.00** Jurassica (8181493) **8.30** Terra X (1931790) **9.00** Done Ball (9953506) **10.00** Future Quest (7736186) **10.30** Next Step (7774506) **11.00** First Flights (2883761) **11.30-12.00** The X-Planes (4863760)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: The Cosmic Man (1959) (4319457) **1.30pm** The Donny and Marie Show (2138032) **2.00** *The Avengers* (4882051) **3.00** My Three Sons (7439380) **3.30** The Beverly Hillbillies (7962490) **4.00** FILM: Bonnie Prince Charlie (1948) (3331916) **6.00** The Protectors (7991902) **6.30** Edgar Wallace (2049490) **7.30** Sabor of London (7988438) **8.00** The Avengers (9908896) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (9940032) **10.00-12.00** FILM: 9½ Weeks (1985) (2699322)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (2828032) **7.00** Gladrags (2821070) **8.00** OK? Talk Feelings (1461896) **8.15** Everyday Yoga (1451419) **8.30** The Truth About Women (7042877) **9.00** Floyd's American Pie (4257877) **9.35** Now You See It (7551457) **10.00** Trivia Trap (4004506) **10.30** Susan Powter (7056341) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (3975099) **12.00** Calendar Fashion (3045493) **12.35pm** Kilroy (2813612) **1.30** Family Affairs (4796148) **2.00** Agony Hour (4005235) **3.00** Gladrags (7958506) **4.00** Intaisation (5062525) **4.30** Trivia Trap (10286167) **4.55** Eating Out with John Tovey (2942506) **5.30** Kate and Allie (5042761) **6.00** Susan Powter (5072900) **6.30** Mr and Mrs (5063254) **7.00** Gladrags and Glamour Hour (4064047) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (2084867) **9.00** FILM: LA Bounty (1989) (9814344) **11.00** The New Mr and Mrs Show (7969070) **11.30-12.00** Intaisation UK (4093490)

FAMILY CHANNE

REAL TENNIS 34
CLEMENT FREUD GOES IN SEARCH OF A LITTLE HELP

SPORT

FOOTBALL 36
MILLICHIP IN A CALL FOR GREATER UNITY

Australia happy to escape with a draw after Fraser fans flames of Ashes hopes

Twilight of despair for England

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

THE beckoning of history is the perennial selling point of sport and 25,766 flocked to the final day of the Sydney Test yesterday on the faint chance of seeing something unique. Instead, they saw a modern-day commonplace, Australia retaining the Ashes, coinciding with a contemporary collectors' piece, as England pushed them to the threshold of defeat.

In the end, the confinements of failing light defied England through a taut final hour, yet, for much of the day, the prospect of them taking ten wickets had seemed as remote as that of Australia successfully chasing more runs than any side in Test history.

Indeed, for as long as Mark Taylor and Michael Slater were together in their opening stand of 208, each on his way to a century, there were those reluctant to discount the world record chase being knocked off by ten wickets. "I never felt we were in danger of losing," Michael Atherton, the England captain, said. In this opinion, he was surely in a minority.

The weather, however, had a profound influence on this match and it now took a hand in its denouement. Rain fell steadily at lunchtime and the delay brought the extra hour into play, so that only seven overs were lost. This was enough to persuade Taylor that Australia were on a fool's errand if they continued to pursue a further 243 runs. But when the game resumed after an early tea under glowering skies, in high humidity and with a freshened pitch, the balance between batsmen and bowlers had shifted.

Angus Fraser, galumphing in wearing those outsize boots, dismissed Slater with a rank long hop. It seemed of no account, so far down the road of stalemate had the day travelled, but when Devon Malcolm and Darren Gough then took a wicket apiece with a second new ball that swung and seamed, the jeers and catcalls of an impatient crowd gave way to renewed anticipation.

Fraser heightened the suspense. In his most incisive spell for England since taking eight West Indies wickets in Barbados last April, he cut away the Australian middle order. As he locked onto that compelling off-stump line with a previously elusive rhythm, four wickets fell to him in three overs. Mark Waugh out leg-before when he was making any difficulties seem trivial and the others all caught behind.

John Woodcock .... Page 37
Six for Salisbury ... Page 37
Defiant Young ..... Page 37

With seven wickets down and the last hour not yet commenced, England were suddenly firm favourites. They might have known, however, that Shane Warne would find a way of influencing this game. After taking only one wicket, he was doubtless missing the limelight, so, in league with Tim May, he batted out time and ensured one more hero's ovation.

Warne and May were together for 77 minutes and 18.5 overs. Crucially, they faced little from the England seam bowlers. Weary, as the uninterrupted session extended towards four hours, yet willing for one final effort, they were denied by such grim light that one would only have needed to start marking out his run-up and the umpires would have curtailed play.

Atherton had to persist with Phil Tufnell from one end, Graeme Hick and Graham Gooch from the other. There were alarms and appeals aplenty, but no business resulted until, from the final ball of the fifteenth over in the last hour, Warne speared Gooch to mid-off and Malcolm, whose eyesight is suspect even in bright sunlight, groped for the catch and dropped it.

The batsmen walked off, most of the fielders with them. The groundstaff began streaming on with their tractors and stewards stepped inside the boundary to keep the crowd off. But Atherton, alert when others were resigned, had spotted that the hour was not quite up and everyone had to come back for an additional four balls before England conceded.

This was the last twist to a quite astonishing game. To equate it with five sets of tennis, England were leading 3-6, 6-1, 6-1, 0-6, 5-3 when the final set was cut short. Such were the exhausting fluctuations, the bewildering diversions, that the first-day rescue by Atherton and John Crawley, and the magnificent bowling by a sick Craig McDermott, seem half a lifetime ago.

Yesterday was special, for we are too familiar with empty grounds as Test matches reach a climax. An early morning atmosphere of heady expectation, with long queues at the turnstiles and ticket touts enjoying a bonus day, was nourishment for Test cricket, the ultimate rebuff for those sceptics who spent a decade propounding the soulless theory that the game would soon be exclusively one-day, the wearisome province of floodlights and pyjamas.

Hours later, almost unnoticed amid the twilight drama, the primary objective of England's tour was defeated. The Ashes, held by Australia since 1989, will remain in their possession until at least 1997. And, while the draw obtained here ranks high among England's results during this fallow period, it must go down as an opportunity lost. Certainly, Atherton believes as much. His declaration on Wednesday was a good one, as even Hick may in time concede, and he remains deflated that four sessions proved insufficient to bowl out Australia. But, as was the case throughout this game, the cricket changed character with the weather.

Taylor and Slater were fortunate to have sunshine overhead and a straw-coloured pitch beneath them when they launched their stand, and were good enough to make the most of it. This was their second double-century partnership in Tests and the one chance offered was when Slater, on 72, sliced a drive against Tufnell and Crawley dropped a swirling catch at mid-off.

A wicket then would to some degree have vindicated Atherton's stifling theory that Tufnell should bowl over the wicket, outside leg stump, whenever Slater or Mark Waugh are batting. It would not quite have explained his unwillingness to set attacking fields for his fast bowlers in the important first hour.

All concerned were aware, however, that the second new ball would provide the decisive phase of the game. When it was taken, Australia were 234 for one. A little over an hour later, they were 292 for seven and the fielders were crowded so close there was scarcely room for a batsman. Warne made space, however, and then made certain that his sorcery with the ball over two games would not be jeopardised by the frailty of others with the bat in one chaotic hour.

PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM MORRIS



Fraser acclaims the departure of Mark Waugh, the third of his four wickets in a devastating 13-ball spell



Atherton moves to intercept the over-hasty groundstaff

Atherton takes umpiring to task

FROM ALAN LEE

MICHAEL ATHERTON, the England captain, will criticise the umpiring of the dramatic final day on two counts, when he submits his routine end-of-match report.

Atherton made plain his irritation that Darrell Hair, the Australian official, had not considered it necessary to refer a run-out appeal to the third umpire when Mark Taylor had made 78. He was also scornful over the chaotic conclusion to the game, when only his intervention prevented England being deprived of an extra over.

Hair adjudged Taylor had made his ground as he scrambled a third run to deep mid-wicket in late morning. Television replays suggested it had been too close to call and Atherton pointed out that the same umpire had made a similar decision, of equal relevance, during the World Series Cup defeat by Zimbabwe last month.

"We asked the umpire if it was close enough and he said no," Atherton said. "It is immaterial to me whether it was actually out or not. If the technology is there, the umpires ought to use it because it is a failsafe method."

On the way the match ended, Atherton said: "It was a bit of a farce, really. When Devon dropped that catch, I threw my cap down because I knew there were five minutes left in the last hour. I couldn't understand why everyone began walking off and I had to bring the umpires' attention to the time. They should have known when the last hour started and they should have known the rules."

There were, however, no excuses from Atherton for the failure to complete victory. "The weather was the key to the match," he said. "Early on, the umpires played on through some rain and they then had to carry that policy forward. So whenever it did rain, the pitch was freshened up and, if the overhead conditions were right, it became good to bowl on."

Taylor, the Australia captain, added: "We knew there would be some movement for the second new ball and as soon as I got out, I started worrying."

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings

G A Gooch c Healy b Fleming ..... 1 (7min, 9 balls)
*M A Atherton b McDermott ..... 88 (331min, 267 balls, 8 fours)
G A Hick b McDermott ..... 2 (21min, 13 balls)
G P Thorpe lbw b McDermott ..... 10 (27min, 17 balls, 2 fours)
J P Crawley c M E Waugh b Fleming 72 (291min, 226 balls, 6 fours)
M W Gatting c Healy b McDermott ... 0 (3 min, 4 balls)
A R C Fraser c Healy b Fleming ..... 27 (141min, 95 balls, 2 fours)
†S J Rhodes run out (S R Waugh/Fleming/Healy) ..... 1 (3min, 2 balls)
D Gough c Fleming b McDermott .. 51 (72min, 56 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)
D E Malcolm b Warne ..... 29 (23min, 18 balls, 2 sixes, 3 fours)
P C R Tufnell not out ..... 4 (26min, 17 balls)
Extras (b 8, lb 7, nb 9) 24
Total (119.2 overs, 478min) 309

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-20, 4-194, 5-194, 6-196, 7-197, 8-255, 9-295

BOWLING: McDermott 30-7-101-5, Fleming 26.2-12-52-3, Warne 36-10-88-1; May 17-4-35-0; M E Waugh 6-1-10-0; Bevan 4-1-8-0

Second Innings

G A Gooch lbw b Fleming ..... 29 (61min, 37 balls, 4 fours)
*M A Atherton c Taylor b Fleming 67 (222min, 165 balls, 5 fours)
G A Hick not out ..... 98 (255min, 166 balls, 1 six, 10 fours)
G P Thorpe not out ..... 47 (97min, 71 balls, 4 fours)
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 7) 14
Total (2 dec, 72 overs, 317min) 255

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-158

BOWLING: McDermott 24-2-76-0, Fleming 20-3-68-2, M E Waugh 2-1-4-0; Warne 16-2-49-0, May 10-1-55-0.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater b Malcolm ..... 11 (35min, 24 balls, 1 four)
*M A Taylor c and b Gough ..... 49 (209min, 131 balls, 2 fours)
D C Boon b Gough ..... 3 (15min, 5 balls)
M E Waugh c Rhodes b Malcolm .. 3 (4min, 4 balls)
M G Bevan c Thorpe b Fraser ..... 8 (55min, 31 balls, 1 four)
S R Waugh b Gough ..... 1 (13min, 8 balls)
†† A Healy c Hick b Gough ..... 10 (18min, 19 balls, 2 fours)
S K Warne c Gatting b Fraser ..... 0 (4min, 5 balls)
T B A May c Hick b Gough ..... 0 (7min, 2 balls)
C J McDermott not out ..... 21 (61min, 30 balls, 2 fours)
D W Fleming b Gough ..... 0 (1min, 1 ball)
Extras (b 6, lb 1, nb 3) 10
Total (42.5 overs, 211min) 116

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-15, 3-18, 4-38, 5-39, 6-57, 7-62, 8-65, 9-116.

BOWLING: Malcolm 13-4-34-2; Gough 18.5-4-49-6; Fraser 11-1-28-2.

Second Innings

*M A Taylor b Malcolm ..... 113 (364min, 248 balls, 9 fours)
M J Slater c Tufnell b Fraser ..... 103 (283min, 237 balls, 10 fours)
D C Boon c Hick b Gough ..... 17 (107min, 68 balls, 1 four)
M E Waugh lbw b Fraser ..... 25 (61min, 34 balls, 4 fours)
M G Bevan c Rhodes b Fraser ..... 7 (21min, 14 balls, 1 four)
S R Waugh c Rhodes b Fraser ..... 0 (7min, 8 balls)
†† A Healy c Rhodes b Fraser ..... 5 (13min, 11 balls)
S K Warne not out ..... 38 (87min, 59 balls, 4 fours)
T B A May not out ..... 10 (77min, 64 balls)
Extras (b 12, lb 3, w 1, nb 12) 28
Total (7 wkts, 121.4 overs, 514min) 344

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-208 (Taylor 94), 2-239 (Boon 9), 3-265 (M E Waugh 12), 4-282 (M Waugh 21), 5-288 (M Waugh 25), 6-289 (Healy 3), 7-292 (Warne 1).

BOWLING: Malcolm 21-4-75-1 (nb 1, 4-0-24-0, 5-1-20-0 5-1-9-0, 7-2-22-1); Gough 28-4-72-1 (w 1, 8-2-25-0, 7-2-14-0, 2-0-2-0 2-0-7-0, 5-0-16-1, 4-0-8-0); Fraser 25-3-73-5 (nb 7, 3-0-13-0, 4-1-13-0, 3-0-16-0, 8-1-12-1, 7-1-19-4); Tufnell 35.4-9-61-0 (nb 5; 9-0-30-0, 13-5-22-0, 3-0-6-0, 4-1-3-0, 6.4-3-10-0); Hick 5-0-21-0 (2-0-9-0, 3-0-12-0); Gooch 7-1-27-0 (4-1-11-0, 3-0-16-0)

Man of the match: D Gough

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D B Hair (Australia)

TV replay umpire: W A Cameron Match referee: J R Reid (New Zealand)

SERIES DETAILS: First Test (Brisbane): Australia won by 184 runs. Second Test (Melbourne), Australia won by 295 runs. Fourth Test: Adelaide (January 26-30) Fifth Test: Perth (February 3-7).

Compiled by Bill Frindall

Atherton's stifling theory that Tufnell should bowl over the wicket, outside leg stump, whenever Slater or Mark Waugh are batting. It would not quite have explained his unwillingness to set attacking fields for his fast bowlers in the important first hour.

All concerned were aware, however, that the second new ball would provide the decisive phase of the game. When it was taken, Australia were 234 for one. A little over an hour later, they were 292 for seven and the fielders were crowded so close there was scarcely room for a batsman. Warne made space, however, and then made certain that his sorcery with the ball over two games would not be jeopardised by the frailty of others with the bat in one chaotic hour.

Atherton moves to intercept the over-hasty groundstaff

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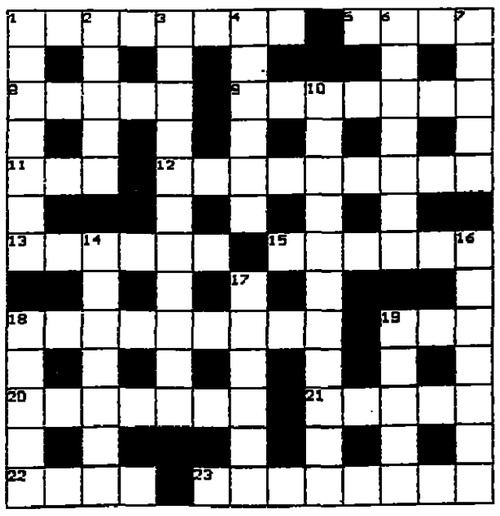
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 362

ACROSS
1 Peignoir (8)
5 Spin (coin) (4)
8 Bee's weapon (5)
9 Easily shattered, fragile (7)
11 Thin metal, wooden shaft (3)
12 (Of garden) not kept under control (9)
13 Adapt (6)
15 Jacob's son, sold into Egypt (6)
18 Venerable man; family head (9)
19 Label; metal point on lace (3)
20 Greek currency (7)
21 Look after (the sick) (5)
22 Behind time (4)
23 Level-headed (8)

DOWN
1 Quack medicine (7)
2 Fellowship; craft association (5)
3 With sincere intention (2,4,5)
4 Badge; symbol representing a quality (6)
6 Result (7)
7 Lustre (5)
10 Likely to be well looked after (2,4,5)
14 Diminish; take away (7)
16 Personal cleanliness (7)
17 Covered passageway of shops (6)
18 Foot lever (5)
19 Pulsate (5)

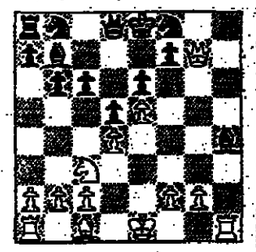
SOLUTION TO NO 361

ACROSS: 1 Errand 5 Quip 9 Squalor 10 Unique 11 Quarters 12 Tights 15 Permit 18 Assembly 20 Quarry 22 Equinox 23 Yard 24 Decent

DOWN: 2 Risqué 3 Aquarium 4 Delve 6 Ugli 7 Piquet 8 Crusty 13 Germanic 14 Stayed 16 Equity 17 Klaxon 19 Squad 21 Rear

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Alekhine - Rosanoff, Moscow 1908. How did White achieve a decisive material advantage with the aid of a forcing combination



Solution, page 34
Raymond Keene, page 7

By Philip Howard

ORMING
a. Chasing women
b. Difficulty in breathing
c. Clumsy in movement

PORO PORO
a. An Australian shrub
b. An abrasive cloth
c. A long spoon

PRUSHUN
a. An Austrian mountain
b. A knot
c. A tramp's companion

RADDLED
a. Worn out
b. Drunk
c. Twisted

Answers on page 34